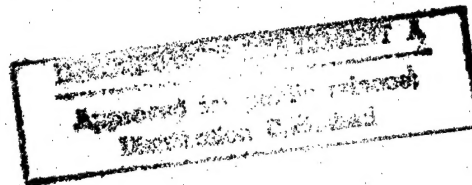


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PARTY LOCAL ROLE EVALUATED

Tizi-Ouzou Coordination Council

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 1-2 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by M'Hand Oughawa: "Central Committee Recommendations: Implementation Evaluated In Tizi-Ouzou"]

[Text] Following the decision to revive and provide new impetus to the Party grassroots structures and mass organizations, a coordination council increased to include the Commissariat met last Thursday to discuss problems of great importance for the governorate and our national institutions.

Actually, the start of the new school and academic year is not an ordinary event, a simple operation without any political and sociocultural meaning. Quite on the contrary--as the Commissariat's secretary and the governor were to point out with just cause--it is one of the essential tasks of local authorities; it has undeniably tremendous political importance and sociocultural implications.

Just consider what a large portion of public expenditures is devoted to education; the constant concern of public authorities for fundamental, secondary, vocational and higher education; the development of infrastructures with respect to teaching and supervising personnel; and finally the needs and objectives naturally required by the economic and social development of the country.

It is then plain for all to understand the political and sociocultural implications of the start of the new school and academic year, and the timeliness of the attention given to this major event of national life by local and national authorities. What should be considered is not so much the fact that a new school year is starting as the impact it has and will have in the future.

From Evaluation to Participation

The other, and no less important, item discussed by the coordination council involved taking stock of the measures adopted following the FLN central committee recommendations with respect to agriculture, water-supply systems, housing and public health. Attention should be drawn to at least two important aspects: the first one is the procedure or method which, since the Fourth

FLN Congress, consists in associating the rank-and-file to the study of problems of vital importance to the country and to the preparation of decisions that will guide the progress of the Revolution. Of course, significant remarks could be made on the manner in which this rank-and-file participation takes place at times in certain places. Presidential Instruction No 30 does allude to this in its first article, but it should be noted that this participation, even if it should be expanded or intensified, is not as formal as is sometimes assumed. It represents one of the important operating principles that were the result of the Fourth FLN Congress; it is rooting itself into habits and has begun to yield appreciable results. Continuing along this road, the expansion and intensification that cannot fail to result sooner or later will bring about invaluable changes in our institutions and in their relations with the masses at large.

The evaluation carried out jointly with the party and the Five-Year Plan has obviously more than one merit. In addition to the coordination it implies between the various political and administrative institutions, the communication it establishes between the rank-and-file and the leadership--which, in itself, is a considerable democratic plus--it is a way of following up, of checking that decisions are consistent with facts, it is an indication of the reliability of the deliberative authorities, an act of trust per se; in short, a proof of the solidarity of institutions which accept to lay bare errors, inadequacies and deficiencies, to point at those responsible for them and look for ways to remedy them without endangering fundamental principles.

The second aspect is no less important and obviously involves the acuteness of the problems being evaluated. We are all familiar with the agricultural water-supply, housing and public health problems that have become the foremost concern of public authorities. The government is devoting much attention and considerable means to the progressive alleviation of the difficulties encountered in these sectors, the most essential in the life of the country. The Central Committee debated them at length--after grassroots structures--and made important recommendations aimed at removing constraints and guaranteeing a rapid development of these areas which so much affect the citizens' lives. All this deserves to be included in an implementation statement. A statement of the projects on record, their classification, their state of completion, the measures taken to implement Central Committee recommendations, positive and negative aspects, the difficulties encountered, such are the parameters of the evaluation now being made, the final conclusions of which will be drawn at the next meeting of the Central Committee.

Satisfactory Start of the New School Year

The enlarged council chaired by members of the Commissariat bureau heard communications from the Commissariat's secretary, the governor, the director of education and the vice-chancellor of the University Center. Considering the evaluation, it studied and added to the synthesis reports presented by the Commissariat economic and social commission based on the relevant guidelines and on the debates that took place in the kasma.

In his introduction, Mr Abdelkader Saadna, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Commissariat, stressed the stimulation of Party activities, the reinforcement of structures with respect to the implementation of Presidential Instruction No 30, etc. With respect to the start of the new school year, he stressed the importance attached by the country's political leadership to education and training and called for the rank-and-file to implement at grassroots level the decisions made locally and nationally. The rank-and-file, he said, are answerable to the people and the institutions for the realization of all the projects designed to benefit the governorate. He also pointed out the favorable conditions under which the school and academic year had started, in spite of the large increase in the number of students and the constraints of various nature. Sixteen thousand new students just entered the primary cycle for the first time, 15,500 new students just started their first middle-school year (7th year of the basic cycle), close to 5,000 started their first secondary-school year, and 2,000 high school graduates entered the university. These, the secretary of the Commissariat underlined, are the essential facts which mark the progress of the start of the 1982-1983 school year.

The governor, Mr Hamid Sidi Said, first declared himself pleased with the now traditional method which consists in the coordination council's examining questions of vital importance for the governorate (...). "The start of the new school year, he went on, is characterized by a strong increase in the number of students entering the primary, middle and secondary cycles (...). We were expecting," he added, "considerable problems; however, thanks to the mobilization of cadres and militants, thanks to the efforts expended in building schools, we were able to meet the challenges, and detractors of the Revolution were proved wrong. The school year started under satisfactory conditions and the number of students entering the primary cycle and passing examinations encourages us to persevere; it is the result of considerable efforts. (...)"

There are today 65 middle schools in the governorate; in the coming weeks, another 10 will be formally accepted, 15 high schools, the 5,000 students of the governorate University Center alone represent five times as many students as there were in the whole country right after independence (...); this does not mean, the governor pointed out, that the school year started under ideal conditions (...).

We had to requisition building space from other sectors, we also forced People's Communal Assemblies to produce annexed sections within 2 or 3 months; 16,000 students admitted in the first middle year require some 15 new schools; another 3 or 4 new high schools would have been required to receive under good conditions the 5,000 students entering the secondary cycle (...).

In spite of concerns and rumors, the University Center is providing housing for 92 percent of the students registered, an unprecedented rate; students from the Tizi-Ouzou community and from some areas around Draa Ben Khada alone are not housed. Another challenge was met, according to the governor: the opening of the University Hospital Center. "We thwarted maneuvers by solving in time the problem of building space, supervision and housing for

the teaching staff. The schools delivered or to be delivered soon include 10 middle schools, 1 high school and 996 classrooms, 396 of which had been received by the start of the school year, the remaining 600 being scheduled for delivery before the end of the year (...). Finally," the governor went on, "we must start right now the organization of the forthcoming start of the 1983-1984 school year so as to make sure we are not caught unawares."

In his communication, the director of education mentioned that the schooling rate in the first year of the primary cycle is 100 percent; there are 181,160 students, 33,289 of which are new students; there are 649 schools, i.e. 4,046 classrooms, and 6,500 teachers.

The middle cycle numbers 52,222 students, a 13.3 percent increase, 67 middle schools, 5 of which are new, and 26 annexed sections, 2,300 teachers, 530 of whom are new. The admission rate increased from 61 percent in 1981 to 70 percent in 1982.

In the secondary cycle, there are 12,175 high-school students, corresponding to a rate of increase of 15 percent and a rate of admission of 45 percent; there are 14 high schools and one technical high school with boarding facilities for girls, 4 annexed sections, close to 700 teachers, 50 percent of whom are Algerian.

Dependability and Realism

During the last school year, the 2 technological institutes of the Ministry of Education trained 871 teachers and 519 elementary-school teachers and instructors.

The vice-chancellor was to mention that the University administration had expected only 1,000 to 1,500 registrations; it was somewhat surprised by the increase in the number of students (...); the University Center now has 5,000 students, 10 times as many as in 1977; they are divided among 6 institutes: 1,600 of them are following the common-core biology syllabus, 1,000 are studying the exact sciences (...). It should also be mentioned that several new specialties, technology, computer science, dental surgery, etc., are now offered to meet the region's requirements. Of course, the unexpected increase in the number of students resulted in some problems with respect to building space, supervision and teaching, cafeteria facilities and cultural and sports infrastructures. However, contrary to what has been said and written, there is no housing shortage; all students who qualify for housing are housed, 4 students to a room, that is true, but the rooms were designed for 4... The University Center, which was designed and dimensioned to be temporary, is already filled to capacity. The vice-chancellor warned that construction of the Central University, the studies for which were completed a long time ago, should be started soon, or else temporary solutions must be considered right now.

There has not been much change in vocational training, a local official of the department underlined; only one girls center was added to the existing 8, and only 1,200 applicants were admitted although there were tens of thousands of applications. There are now approximately 2,200 students in training, 1,000 of which are boarders, and 904 trainees graduated this year. Apprenticeship, according to the same official, is still meeting with difficulties within the communities: of the 1,500 that had been attributed a position for the current year, only 400 could be placed. As far as infrastructure is concerned, seven projects are considerably behind schedule.

These communications were to be complemented and sometimes amended by other members of the Commissariat Council and bureau.

As for the evaluation of the measures taken following Central Committee recommendations, syntheses of sectorial reports and reports from the kasma obviously pointed out to the considerable progress accomplished in agriculture, water-supply, housing and public health; however, these syntheses are especially remarkable because they place special emphasis on negative aspects, the considerable delays suffered by certain projects, the difficulties encountered by citizens, especially with respect to fruit and vegetables marketing and with respect to health. The reports submitted and the debates show that a new wind is blowing; it is characterized by realism, dependability, the desire to take full responsibility for development problems and the problems of the citizens.

Campaign in Guelma

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 1 - 2 Oct 82 p 3

[Article: "Guelma: Campaign To Last Until 15 October"]

[Text] A general meeting of the militants, devoted to the explanation and analysis of Presidential Letter No 30, was held in Guelma yesterday.

This meeting was chaired by the Commissariat's secretary and attended by militants and cadres of the Party and mass organizations; it marked the start of a vast campaign involving all districts in the governorate.

In the Guelma district, the campaign of explanation will start on 3 October and will be completed on the 15 of the same month.

Following debates on the activities of the Party central and grassroots structures and their leadership role, the members attending the meeting insisted on the necessity to give special attention to development projects. They also emphasized the concerns of the masses and the continued and objective evaluation of all activities.

The members attending also insisted on the importance of direct contact with the rank-and-file. Such contact, they said, offers a dual interest since it makes it possible to keep track both of the problems and the concerns of the rank-and-file.

Concerning Party activities during the past three months, the members present insisted on the necessity for a field evaluation to establish programs of action based on precise data.

After the groups that are to visit the country's governorates from 1 to 20 October were formed, the official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat presented a communication in which he stressed the importance of direct contact and dialogue with the rank-and-file concerning their concerns and those of the masses. He also advised the participants to emphasize the presidential guidelines and the decisions of the Central Committee.

He also insisted on the need for a careful analysis of the economic, social, cultural and organizational situation of the Commissariat, in order to enable the Political Direction to take all measures necessary at the right time, and to make the changes required to improve the situation. (APS)

9294

CSO: 4519/26

FINANCIAL STATUS OF LOCAL COMPANIES EXAMINED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 10 Oct 82 p 9

[Article: "Financial Situation of Governorate Companies Examined"]

[Text] The financial situation of 12 governorate companies was examined last Monday at the Constantine governorate by the APW [Governorate Popular Assembly].

The situation of only 1 of the 12 governorate companies, SIMCO (Mechanical Engineering Company), was not examined, as the company did not submit a balance sheet for the closing year.

According to the APW president, its financial statement is balanced; balance sheets for two years (1981-1982) will have to be prepared before the start of the next year to give a better idea of the evolution of the company's situation.

As a whole, the situation of governorate companies, which take an active part in the budget of the governorate and in the effective development of the region, is balanced, the deficit of some being made up for by the profits of others. At any rate, none of these entities, the first of which was created in 1974, ever had a deficit three years in a row, which could justify its dissolution under the laws of 1971. Taken as a whole, these development companies cannot give rise to criticism, as most of these local enterprises do not show any serious imbalance likely to arouse concern concerning their financial situation or their management.

Considering their financial situation one at a time, their social problems--which are few this year--are due in part to some confusion in the application of some regulations concerning the allocation of bonuses.

The economic and social difficulties of some companies are due, among other things, to the lack of uniformity in the placement schedules of their personnel. In some companies, personnel promotion takes place after two years, in others after one year only. The cases in point are those of SOTRACO [expansion unknown] and SOWIS [expansion unknown]. The question of SOWIS was raised by

the company's manager at a meeting of the board of supervision, but no definite solution was offered. This hesitation may create difficulties for this company which, until now, has never given rise to debates.

These 12 governorate companies, which employ approximately 10,000 workers, play a considerable role in curbing underemployment, since one third of the Constantine population is living off income generated by them.

The situation of SOTRACO and COPREBAT [expansions unknown], a company created last March, could show a positive balance if revaluation amounts for the projects realized are granted before the close of the current year. COPREBAT, on objective bases and financial documentation, will have an improved cashflow and its situation will be entirely sound again. It will then only have to wait for the individualization from the Ministry of Planning before completing the purchase of the equipment belonging to the foreign company that did not honor its commitments. Besides, this equipment is worn and needs replacement.

Equipment Modernization

The only problem that was not thoroughly examined is that of the future of the Eperthy company which will be very uncertain once the projects are completed. Its workload does not extend beyond the next two years. After that, it will have to find markets and contracts if it is to endure--which, at the present rate, is not sure--and nobody seems much concerned about its future. Projects involving small water-supply systems, and canalizations and branch-pipes will be entirely completed within two years.

The APW president, who is aware of the governorate financial problems and the importance of these enterprises, was to reassure the manager of Eperthy that the situation of that enterprise would be considered.

A similar concern, although to a lesser degree, prevails at Emifor, a company created to restore forests for recreation purposes in the governorate and to embellish the city. The manager of this company raised the question of the nonpayment of work it was instructed to perform by the supervising authorities. The account receivable must be reactivated to mop up the deficit which has become evident.

The tax statements of these enterprises show some deficiencies, especially delays in paying taxes to the Ministry of Finances. In this respect, whereas these companies appear to have made huge profits, these are in fact somewhat fictitious considering that amortization is nil and that the equipment is old, has been depreciated over and over again, and needs replacement.

Self-financing could be used to replace the equipment since cash is available. Also, self-financing would avoid having recourse to temporary credit, which would generate expenses due to the rate of interests on loans. Among others, this is the case of COMANO [expansion unknown], created in 1974 to succeed Etablissements Maschats. In 1981, this company had record sales of 93 million dinars.

SOMACO, a building materials company which started production in 1978, showed a 3-million dinar deficit in 1981. Actually, this imbalance is not very large compared to its recovery potential. The same deficit may reoccur. The company management blame this imbalance on the fact that the selling price of their products is not in keeping with the cost of raw materials.

The product would not be competitive and could not be sold to local communities if prices were adjusted. The economic commission raised the question of increasing production; this is the only way to keep the product competitive and remodel the deficit. However, the various units of this enterprise are interdependent and subject to climate variations; in addition, their equipment is overutilized and they lack spare parts.

This serious examination made by the APW will provide a better basis for these companies, the services of which in developing the governorate cannot be ignored.

Constantine will not be able to complete the hundreds of projects it must realize except with the help of the enterprises, which deserve much attention and the management of which should be reinforced through effective coordination. The governorate mainly aims at creating a network of development companies that are financially sound, and to reinforce the development means of communities so as to relieve medium-size enterprises of the small projects; these will have to be realized under firm community control. (APS)

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CSO: 4519/30

COMPLEMENTARY MEASURES TO 1983 FINANCE LAW NOTED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 11 Oct 82 p 12

[Article: "Council of Ministers: Complementary Measures to the 1983 Budget Adopted"]

[Text] Algiers--The Council of Ministers met yesterday, Sunday, at the seat of the Presidency of the Republic; the meeting was chaired by Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the FLN Party.

The Council heard a communication from the prime minister concerning government activities during the past week.

Following a report from the minister of finance, the Council of Ministers examined and adopted a number of measures complementing the 1983 budget. These measures deal essentially with:

1. A system of taxes on certain forms of sumptuary spending.
2. A procedure for the settlement of inter-enterprise debts.
3. The indemnification of Algerian citizens who owned movie theater businesses that were nationalized in 1964 under Decree No 64-241 of 19 August 1964.
4. Indemnification for agricultural land nationalized under Ordinance No 71-73 of 8 November 1971 concerning the Agrarian Revolution.
5. The increase of the price support ceiling over and above what had been initially contemplated, in order to preserve the citizens' purchasing power.

The measures concerning indemnification deal, on the one hand, with the updating of procedures and, on the other hand, the assessment schedule.

These measures will be submitted for approval to the National People's Assembly; they form part of the 1983 budget bill already submitted to the Assembly.

Following a report of the minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Revolution, the Council of Ministers then considered the implementation of emergency measures

adopted by the government last January to preserve the livestock population following the drought that affects certain regions of the country.

This program, the implementation of which started immediately after it was adopted, included essentially the following operations:

- Feeding the livestock,
- Watering the livestock,
- Protecting the health of the livestock.

In this respect, it should be noted, among other things, that:

- In addition to bran, fodder and straw, close to 3 million quintals of barley were shipped and distributed.
- Close to 6 million sheep were treated, which is a valid rate of coverage.

Generally, this operation--the objective of which is to preserve the livestock population and, therefore, price stability--took place under satisfactory conditions and is now being pursued, especially in western regions where the drought continues.

Following a report from the minister of post and telecommunications, the Council of Ministers also made a first assessment of the implementation of regulations related to the importation of spare parts and small tools through COD parcel post. Since this service was first offered in May 1982, its use by citizens has steadily increased. Thus, 11,855 such parcels were distributed throughout the country's governorates. The most apparent results were:

- The removal of constraints imposed upon households and small enterprises with respect to spare parts and small tools.
- A stimulation of the activity of small enterprises, improved equipment profitability and, as a result, a contribution to national production improvement.

Finally, the Council of Ministers heard a communication from the minister of Health concerning his recent official visit to France. (APS)

9294

CSO: 4519/30

HEALTH PROJECTS NOTED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 11 Oct 82 p 7

[Article: "Jijel: Prefabricated Materials for Public Health Institutions"]

[Text] With one health center for every 5,000 inhabitants, one health-care room for every 12,000 inhabitants, and 0.77 hospital beds for every 1,000 inhabitants, the Jijel governorate shows large deficiencies with respect to health infrastructures.

In spite of the efforts made in this domain, much remains to be done to achieve normal coverage and minimum fulfillment of the people's needs.

On the occasion of the minister of health's recent visit, health authorities did not fail to emphasize the deficiencies that prevail in this domain which must be reinforced and developed in view of the expansion and prospects for development of this region.

The development program for this sector, which is now in progress, will make it possible to improve health services in the governorate.

In the medium term, the implementation of this program will result in an improvement of public health; in the long term, it will make it possible to achieve the objectives defined in the national health map, namely to take charge effectively of the populations and provide them with curative and preventive care through public health structures.

The Jijel governorate includes four health sectors, i.e. one sector per district (El-Milia, Taher, Jijel and Ferdjiousa); its population is approximately 550,000 inhabitants.

Three 240-bed hospitals are now being built at Jijel, El-Milia and Ferdjiousa. The governorate seat hospital, which was recently visited by the minister of health, is being completed. Operators are now installing the equipment so it can open as soon as possible.

The other hospitals, in Ferdjious and El-Milia, are completed respectively to 80 and 45 percent. Another 240-bed hospital is projected for the Taher district.

It will be made of prefabricated materials. It is rumored that building contracts will be signed during October 1982.

The equipment program also provides for the construction of new polyclinics in the governorate. Of the nine projected polyclinics, three are under construction. To these must be added other projects concerning the construction of 4 maternity hospitals, 14 health centers and 11 health-care rooms, 1 paramedical school, 1 psychiatric hospital and 1 hygiene laboratory, which will be made of prefabricated materials.

The para-public sector (social security) is also projecting the construction of four polyclinics with payment centers (one is already operational in Jijel), two maternity hospitals and one school for the hearing-impaired (deaf-mutes).

The Jijel governorate, which is included in the Constantine area health map, has a low hospital capacity.

Its hospital bed index is one of the lowest in the nation (0.77 beds per 1,000 inhabitants). When the new hospital structures are built, this rate will increase to 2.9 beds--the national average is 2.5 beds for 1,000 inhabitants.

The polyclinics in operation, too, offer a low rate of coverage (1 unit per 91,000 inhabitants), lower than the national standard: 1 polyclinic per 25,000 inhabitants. There are now 19 health centers, and this number will be increased to 37 when the programs are completed; there will then be 1 health center per 14,000 inhabitants, not much compared with the rate recommended by the health map, which is 1 center per 5,000 inhabitants.

Paramedical School

As far as health-care rooms are concerned, these prove very useful in rural areas, but there are not enough of them to provide adequate coverage of the needs. The construction of new units (11 rooms projected) will bring the rate to 1 health care room per 12,000 inhabitants).

As far as the personnel is concerned, there is a shortage, especially a shortage of medical personnel. The paramedics density is one of the lowest in the country; 1 agent per 1,400 inhabitants, whereas the national standard is 1 paramedic per [number illegible] inhabitants. In addition, the distribution of paramedical agents between health sectors is uneven (for instance, there is 1 paramedic per [number illegible] inhabitants in Jijel, compared with 1 per 2,000 inhabitants in Ferdjious). During the past few years, the Jijel paramedical school, operating in what used to be a polyclinic, has made great efforts to train agents for their new tasks.

Unfortunately, it is not equipped to train paramedical supervisors. In this respect, we should emphasize that annexes were opened in the four governorate health sectors, to train some categories of personnel (technical health agent and health technician). The beginning of the new school year was marked by an innovation: the Jijel paramedical school will now train higher health technicians.

The problem of paramedical training in this governorate will find a definitive solution only when construction starts on the new projected school.

Concerning medical personnel, the situation has considerably improved in the past few years, and the four health sectors have been reinforced. Medical coverage is now provided at the rate of 1 physician per 4,700 inhabitants. There are now 67 physicians made available under cooperation agreements, 25 Algerian physicians working full-time, and another 27 working part-time. There are also 33 dental surgeons, i.e. 1 dental surgeon per 16,000 inhabitants.

We should also mention that, in the Jijel and El-Milia health sectors, Soviet and Vietnamese medical missions are working under cooperation agreements.

The Jijel social security office, which opened in 1977 as a result of the decentralization of this national institution, contributed considerably to the improvement of social and health conditions. In fact, this institution is represented in all four districts as well as in agricultural villages. It has completed several projects which are now operational, as well as projects in the social and health sector. Among others, we should mention the forthcoming opening of a 67-bed maternity hospital at the governorate seat, close to the new 240-bed hospital. (APS)

9294

CSO: 4519/30

AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS REVIEWED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 10 Oct 82 p 7

[Article: "Will Agricultural Financing Problems Soon Be Settled?"]

[Text] To that effect, a new institution, BADR [Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development] is being established in the country.

The financial sector has just given itself a new institution. Taking advantage of the reorganization of enterprises, BADR was created, essentially to help the agricultural sector. To that effect, the role and fundamental orientations of BADR were reviewed at length by Mr Mustapha Achour, its general manager, in an interview with APS.

Explaining the role of BADR, Mr Achour indicated that the strategic importance of Algerian agriculture was stressed in the National Charter and that its development will always be one of the state's top priorities.

"The Central Committee of the FLN is aware of this necessity; it devoted part of its third session to agriculture and adopted a resolution providing for a program of action concerning all the fields related to agriculture."

"Among other things, this resolution provides for the creation of a specialized financial institution that would be in charge of financing the specific needs of the agricultural sector with respect to the development, equipment and farming of all agricultural production or service units; in view of this, BADR was created in March 1982."

Mr Achour stated that the economic independence of the country must be achieved through agricultural self-sufficiency, and that it can be obtained only through the consistent development of agriculture, which must receive new impetus, and through the improvement of the standard and conditions of living of rural populations which represent over 60 percent of the total population.

Economically, fulfilling this need is one of the objectives of the participation of agriculture in national stockpiling and the reorganization of the means of production.

BADR is an instrument of the government's policy and its mission is to contribute to the development of the agricultural sector and the promotion of the rural world.

In its dual role of deposit bank and development bank, it can also take care of all credit, exchange and financial operations.

"It will be established throughout the country gradually, as a function of the missions entrusted to it," Mr Achour stated. Explaining the central function, he stated that, in connection with supervisory authorities, BADR would supervise the financial operation of registered enterprises to make sure they conform with the plans and programs which concern them, and that it would examine periodically their situation and financial management.

The general manager of BADR explained that his organization can help physicians, pharmacists, dentists and dental surgeons, and veterinarians that would open practices in rural communities.

Problems That Are Not Solely Financial

In fact, the creation of an agricultural bank reflects the general context of economic evolution.

Answering a question concerning the traditional role played by the financial sector in agricultural development, Mr Achour stated that the traditional role of a bank could not be assimilated to a factor that would restrict "the major functions of a banking institution which are universal and consist in collecting resources to finance the economy," he added before stating that, due to the fact that the bank will use savings resources to cover the requirements of agricultural enterprises for equipment and other means of production, it must take all necessary precautions to make sure that the credits granted in accordance with existing plans and programs are used properly.

"In past years, it has become evident that the problems of our agriculture are not essentially financial," Mr Achour went on and stated that: "The increased evolution of financed operating charges which, for the socialist sector, increased from 1.8 billion in 1973-1974 to 5.2 billion in 1980-81, i.e. a rate of increase of 280 percent, and the underutilization of investment credits, the utilization rate of which did not exceed 50 percent at most, are significant indicators and confirm the fact that credit alone cannot solve the problems particular to the agricultural sector."

"The creation of BADR, and the missions entrusted to it, aim at supplementing all the measures taken with respect to economy in general and agriculture in particular.

Simplified Credit

Speaking of the new provisions issued with respect to the preparation of loan applications, the general manager of BADR announced the simplification of the credit-granting procedure to reach a larger number of farmers in the private sector.

Monitoring the activities of enterprises through credit, and supervising financial operations are, if not the only means, at least the most efficient means of supervising production in order to improve performances.

After mentioning that the credit-granting procedure had been considerably simplified in order to reach a maximum number of farmers, the general manager of BADR stated that only those included in the lists established by Expanded People's Communal Assemblies qualify as farmers.

Asked for his opinion on the experimental free marketing of fruit and vegetables, Mr Achour said that this decision had had an impact in increasing the revenues of producers.

"This phenomenon was analyzed as part of an investigation carried out in June 1981 by departments of the bank," Mr Achour said, stressing that this investigation involved 11 governorates where garden crops and fruit are grown, and showed an increase in receipts for the 1980-1981 campaign of approximately 117 percent compared with the average of the three previous campaigns. Citrus fruit growers' receipts increased considerably, exceeding in some cases 500 percent of the usual receipts."

"It should also be noted," Mr Achour added, "that the free marketing of fruit and vegetables brought about some negative phenomena which could not be avoided due to the absence of regular control structures."

In conclusion, the general manager of BADR mentioned a few phenomena observed right after the implementation of the measure. Among other things, there were delays in agricultural work.

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CSO: 4519/29

CARTER GIVES HIS ACCOUNT OF THE FALL OF SHAH

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 93, 14 Oct 82 pp4-6

[Text] Former US president Jimmy Carter accuses his country's ambassador in Tehran at the end of the reign of the late Shah of carrying out some of his directives "halfheartedly, if at all" when he lambasts the former envoy, William Sullivan, in his memoirs, extracts of which were published this week in TIME magazine.

Carter said Sullivan had changed his mind about supporting the Shah and urged Washington to try to form some kind of friendship or alliance with Khomeyni. He rejected Sullivan's recommendation because he felt the Shah, Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar and the Iranian military leaders needed consistent American support.

The reader can only infer from what Carter writes about Sullivan that the latter brushed aside the Bakhtiar government's efforts to try to save the situation, and instead sought to tie up America's interests with those of Khomeyni and the anti-Shah forces. When Carter, so one must infer, decided to back the Shah completely instead of "predicating its support, as Sullivan increasingly seemed to prefer, on the Shah's acquiescence to suggestions from the American embassy," Sullivan appears to have succumbed to anger at being crossed, even by his president.

Carter said he agreed with the Shah that he should leave the country with dignity, in accordance with his own schedule, and only after a stable successor government had been established. Sullivan, however, recommended that the U.S. should oppose the Shah's plan, insist on his immediate departure and try for links with Khomeyni.

Carter's condemnation of Sullivan continues so firmly that it suggests the ex-president feels the former envoy played an important role in producing the debacle which has cost both the United States and, to a much greater degree the Iranian people, so dear. He goes so far as to accuse Sullivan of losing control of himself and sending a cable "bordering on insolence" in which he condemned the U.S.'s asking the French president to contact Khomeyni instead of the Americans doing it themselves. Carter writes:

"Because Sullivan seemed unable to provide us with adequate reports from the military, a crucial source of information and advice, Defense Secretary Harold Brown and I concluded that we needed a strong and competent American representative in Tehran who would keep me informed about the military's needs. One of his responsibilities would be to strengthen the resolve of the military leaders and encourage them to remain in Iran to maintain stability even if the Shah should leave. I ordered General Robert Huyser, deputy commander of U.S. forces in Europe, to carry out this assignment.

"Some of Iran's top military leaders had told Sullivan, 'We will not permit the Shah to leave Iran. We will at least place him on an (Iranian) island. We plan a coup to take over the government, to clean up Iran and to eliminate violence. Bakhtiar may form a token government and we will give him token support.'

"The Shah told Sullivan that he had complete control over the military leaders and that they would make no move to restrain him in any way. He said he planned to leave Iran in order to strengthen Bakhtiar, and that those who had considered a military coup would instead support Bakhtiar's government but would stand by to take over if he should fail. General Huyser reported that the military leaders indeed supported Bakhtiar.

"Sullivan apparently lost control of himself, and on Jan. 10 sent a cable bordering on insolence, condemning our asking the French President to contact Khomeyni instead of doing it ourselves. He used such phrases as 'gross and perhaps irretrievable mistake,' 'plea for sanity' and 'incomprehensible.' He seemed unable to present an objective analysis of the situation in Iran. I was well aware that he had been carrying out some of my directives half-heartedly, if at all. Now, since he had changed his mind in recent weeks about supporting the Shah, his activities and statements had cost him much of the confidence he had previously enjoyed from the Shah and his associates and from me. From then on I relied primarily on General Huyser, who remained cool and competent and, as far as I could tell, always sent back balanced views."

What Carter does not explain, at least in the excerpts quoted by TIME, is why he allowed Sullivan, a diplomat who is said to have admitted on his arrival in Iran to knowing nothing about Iran or Muslims except for what had been supplied to him in briefings, to handle the delicate post in Tehran when trouble was brewing. Why was he not replaced by someone who did know something of Iranians and who could appreciate the dangers resulting from their inevitably emotional response to events; someone who could have better sieved the stories brought to him by the embassy's regular Iranian contacts and taken an objective look at the Shah's position? One used to cram into the embassy parties and fell for the opportunistic and ill-considered accounts of what was what and who was who.

Sullivan was also thrown into close contact with the British ambassador Sir Anthony Parsons, a fine diplomat but perhaps too much of an Arabist to be able himself to adjust to the utterly different character and culture of the Iranians when the emergency occurred. Parsons is said to have been of the

opinion that Sullivan's predecessor Richard Helms mingled with the wrong people and ignored the more liberal elements in Iranian society. Did he not know that if Helms and his staff had mingled too obviously with the latter types this would have been immediately construed by the Shah's enemies as evidence the U.S. wanted a change and the events of 1978 could well have been precipitated in the mid-70's instead? Indeed, most experienced foreign residents of Iran felt that Helms understood and sympathized with Iranians sufficiently well to have avoided very skillfully contributing to any instability during his stay in Iran. It was significant that his departure and the advent of inexplicably malevolent enemies of the Shah to the State Department appears to have sparked off renewed stirrings among opponents of the Shah both inside and outside Iran.

Carter does not seem to be aware that as head of the administration he must take responsibility for appointing officials who were later to make such a tragic hash of what should have been a simple diminution of the Shah's autocratic powers and a step along the road to more democratic ways of running Iran. He says the Shah was committed against giving political rights but there was plenty of evidence from the time he so stupidly appointed Jaafar Sharif-Emami, a man with no political skill of any kind, to be his premier, that the Shah was ready to concede a great deal. Though it is fair to say that the Americans may not have been able to foresee the taking over of complete power by Khomeyni they would have had to be completely blind if they had not been able to see that the pathetic showing of the liberals in Iran throughout the Shah's reign pointed to the danger of a leftist takeover, with probably the same bloody consequences as the present regime has brought. The mullahs must share the responsibility for the earlier butchery in Iran after the revolution with the leftists, who played their role in it with no less gusto than their turbanned brethren.

Referring to the Shah Carter writes, "We knew little about the forces contending against him but their anti-American statements were enough to strengthen our resolve to support the Shah." This must surely go down as a condemnation of Jimmy Carter and as evidence of the naivete that has led to the deaths of so many thousands in Iran and for which he must surely feel to some extent, at least, responsible. For if we are to believe the writings of journalists and officials in Washington some of Carter's own officials and many of the so-called liberal intellectual elements were actively involved with opponents of the Shah and were known to be, with shortsighted arrogance, more concerned to get rid of him than they were with the consequences of what that might bring.

Had Jimmy Carter and William Sullivan known Iranians just one tiny jot they would have seen that in their myopic disregard for consequences those officials could not have found better allies than the Iranian people themselves.

CSO: 4600/62

HUMAN TOLL OF WAR, PERSPECTIVES OF ISLAMIZATION STUDIED

Rome RINASCITA in Italian No 36, 24 Sep 82 pp 29-31

[Report by Massimo Boffa: "Inside Khomeyni's Iran"]

[Text] Tehran, September--The traveler returning to Iran after an absence of 18 months will hardly recognize the country as he knew it. The revolution has followed its course, a terrible course which has left its mark on everyone. On every face you behold the fatigue induced by the sacrifices thus far suffered and those inevitably still to come. It seems that they will never end.

The war, under way for 2 years in the farthest confines of the country, continues to destroy thousands of youths; while in the cities, the number of small commemorative stones raised on the sidewalks by families in remembrance of their fallen dear ones are multiplying. The combat tactics adopted by the Iranian military in their offensives and the lack of adequate fighting equipment has indeed resulted in a tremendous loss of human life. After the liberation of Khorramshar last May, it seemed that the war was over; instead, it began all over again with the attack on Basra, and no one can tell how it will end.

One cannot say that the population's economic situation has deteriorated to any considerable extent despite the war. The rationing of prime necessities is now more efficient than before, and the rise in controlled prices has been restrained. The growth in petroleum revenues in recent months and a policy of rigorous austerity have combined to ensure a constant supply of essential commodities. Certain items, however, are scarce, and people wait in line 3 or 4 hours before the mosques and neighborhood committee quarters for provisions. Some products can only be found on the black market at prices three to 10 times higher than those fixed by the government. Such hardships are normal in exceptional situations, but this exceptional situation is being prolonged well beyond every expectation.

A new attitude on the part of the people envelops the traveler and isolates him somewhat from his surroundings: fear in all its nuances, from terror to simple prudence. The fact is that life has become very violent. Within a single week, three bombs exploded in the center of Tehran, the most powerful of them alone killing more than 20 impoverished victims in an outdoor market. No one has claimed responsibility for these crimes; "They were committed by American agents," according to the authorities. During the night, one hears gunfire--

brief shootouts between the pasdaran and the mojahedin. For over a year, severe repression, mainly against the mojahedin and other militarized groups of the extreme left (peykar, fedayin), has taken a high toll of human life and ultimately overpowered every kind of organized political opposition. Every manifestation of dissent has been wiped out by the enormous discretionary power of the revolutionary tribunals. The number of casualties is impossible to verify, but the most likely estimate counts 30,000 to 50,000 prisoners and 2,000 to 3,000 persons executed by firing squads.

The popular discontent further is exacerbated by a tightening web of small interdictions which encroach on the individual's daily life, with women first to suffer the effects. For the past 6 months, they have been forbidden to appear in public without the "hejab," the traditional Muslim scarf worn to cover the head. In cities like Tehran, this ban has exasperated at least one-third of the female population, particularly the young women. Women are also discouraged from taking jobs and, even more than the men, subjected to a scrupulous, paternalistic control over their sexual conduct. Meanwhile, the policy of economic austerity imposed by the war closely parallels the "revolutionary" style: daily life has become more grim, the atmosphere in the big cities mournful. After sundown, the streets are dark and completely deserted.

The people are prostrated by an existence which is steadily growing more arduous. As could be expected, the upper- and middle-class bourgeoisie and the intellectuals are the most dissatisfied, but consensus with the government's actions is gradually eroding also among the urban lower classes and the proletariat, the very foundation of the Islamic republic.

Nevertheless, this mounting resistance has done nothing to temper the verbal outpourings of the Islamic administration. Government authorities, parliamentarians, mullahs, basic groups, "councils" of the various institutions and military chiefs compete in using the most extremist language to flaunt their radicalism and exalt the martyrdom of the fallen. Unshakeably intransigent, they extol the principles of the Islamic revolution, hotly denounce every hint of discouragement and compromise, and agitate for a policy of absolute hostility against all the world's superpowers. They have established a sovereignty of words which is systematically diffused through the government's informational monopoly and amplified by what remains of the regime's militant partisans--hezbollahi, pasdaran, committee members, men who volunteer to go to the front or into the countryside, for the most part very young men recruited among the country's poorest sectors, who enthusiastically endorse the Islamic republic.

For the present, the government's propaganda dwells more insistently on the Palestinian tragedy than on any other issue. After Iraq and the United States, Israel is the world's third "Satan." The Arab nations are violently attacked for their indifference to the Beirut massacre and told to halt their petroleum exports by way of reprisal. The Fez summit conference is denounced, as is every effort made to recognize the Jewish state. The pilgrimage to Mecca is described as a roving manifestation against the United States, Israel and Arab moderation.

In part, the revolution has become institutionalized, one of the results to come with the end of the open struggle for power. The various state organisms are

coordinating their activities and the different ministries are cooperating more closely than heretofore. The trauma induced by the destitution of Bani-Sadr still rankles, and there are tangible indications of a profound political crisis. The regime feels itself besieged by a society which, at least among some of its components, is turning more and more hostile. Outwardly, the power has changed its procedures: where formerly it liked to mingle with the crowd, now it emerges in public under heavily armored protection. In Tehran, the speaker of the "Friday prayers," the main political event of the week, addresses tens, probably hundreds of thousands of the faithful who still attend the appointment, from a reinforced cement alcove.

Furthermore, the government itself is by no means united. With the struggle against "Banisadrism" over, not only has the heterogeneity of Islamic power been more clearly revealed, but also the relative isolation of Khomeyni's forces within a highly complex religious system. Practically no important internal political issue fails to instigate paralyzing dissension. Some of the main, harsh reforms proposed to alter the face of Iranian society have been blocked for some time--the agrarian reform, the university's "cultural revolution" and the introduction of Koranic jurisprudence into the penal code. If the dissension is not openly organized, still it is clearly visible. For the past 2 months, almost all the speakers in Parliament have been expressing their anxieties over intensifying controversies. The Islamic Republican Party has only half succeeded in becoming the "single party"; although it has eliminated its adversaries, it is internally lacerated. Disagreements are neither quashed nor mediated within the party, which appears to represent faithfully all the currents participating in the power that rules the nation.

Today in Tehran, when speaking of the conflict between the "Imam's line" and the "ojatun," one alludes--but simplifying the issue somewhat--to a fundamental tug-of-war which is disrupting the Islamic power and dispersing it among widely different theories of development, with the "ojatun," a sort of Islamic masonic club, virulently opposed to the "bahai" sect and communism. Their numbers are limited, but not so the influence of their ideas, which readily conform to certain basic currents of traditional Muslim thought and the interpretation put on the sense of the revolution by a section of Iranian society. Called the "Khomeyni right," they oppose the populist, socialistic nature thus far attributed to the revolution. Defending [private] property, they strive to recall into question the policy of nationalization and demand the same hostility toward the Soviet Union as the leaders have been directing against the United States. They want a more fundamental Islamization of customs and more political independence from the religious power. At present they can count among their supporters--not always openly declared--various eminent ministers: Tavakoli (labor), Parvaresh (public education), Velayati (foreign affairs), Qarazi (petroleum) and Salimi (defense). But it is mainly in the elective bodies that the ideas of the "right" are strong, primarily Parliament, the most representative exponent of Islamic traditionalism, where 100 deputies out of 200 champion them. Several weeks ago, they dismissed Khomeyni, Khomeyni's candidate for the vice-presidency of Parliament, the man who supervised the hostage operation in the American Embassy. Their front, however, is not always solid: every time they are subjected to political campaigns or a decisive intervention by Khomeyni--as the Iranian communists, among others, point out--they enact important laws,

such as one which puts foreign trade under state control despite formidable opposition.

But only the "Imam's line" is publicly proclaimed--radical on the social level, aggressive in international policies, and slightly more moderate in the Islamization of customs, but firm on total identification of politics with religion. Its promoters occupy the key positions of power: the presidency of the republic (Khamenei), the presidency of Parliament (Rafsanjani, who is today the most powerful figure in the country after the Imam), the presidency of the Council (Musavi) and the top positions in the economic ministries. Moreover, they control the government agencies created "from above" through a strict selection of directors--the pasdaran, the "reconstruction crusaders" and the volunteer youths. These choices have been made by the republic's leaders with an eye to avoiding any intensification of discord, to devising compromises or to deferring them to the future.

These actions, however, are prolonging the wait for reforms, already late in coming. On agrarian reform, the Council of the Guardians of the Constitution (charged with ascertaining that the laws passed by Parliament conform with Islamism) has sent back various proposals deemed too disrespectful of property. The objections concern the distribution to peasants of land requisitioned and nationalized after the revolution, and of those properties which exceed a determined size. The process of land distribution began 2 years ago even before the law was passed, but when the war [with Iraq] broke out, it was thought advisable to halt it lest it create internal strife. It is now evident that the process cannot be delayed much longer. Recently, Khomeyni intervened in an attempt to overcome Parliament's resistance to resume immediately the distribution of at least those properties belonging to fugitive owners, or left uncultivated. Since the deputies foresee that forms of indemnity will have to be paid the owners, yet another bill suggesting a compromise is now being drawn up. But one major dispute over the juridical statute concerning tracts to be distributed still remains unresolved: should they be nationalized and given to peasants to work or should they be given to the peasants outright?

Matters are not much different for the "cultural revolution." The university has been closed since the spring of 1980; under what terms it should be reopened has not been decided yet (this year only the school of medicine has been reactivated, and last-year students in the various faculties are being allowed to complete their studies). Those participating in a heated debate on the subject are, on the one hand, the Ministry of Higher Education, and on the other hand, different revolutionary organisms, some of them appointed by the Imam and others speaking for the faculties' "Islamic" staff. A total project for "Islamizing" the program has been discarded, and the discussion now centers on what criteria to adopt in the selection of students, whether to establish fixed quotas and, if so, what quotas for members of the revolutionary units, the unprivileged and the young persons most faithful to the "Imam's line, also for the different national regions. If the university is to reopen soon, as appears likely, should the schools of science have precedence? Are they to operate on a full scale while the humanities are accorded less importance? Four faculties--political science, history, sociology and economics--are currently under study by a special commission of the theological school in Qum, which wants them

strongly "islamized." Evidently the authorities are eager to guarantee a university education for students of proven Muslim and revolutionary faith, but they also want to assure them a high level of technical and professional training, which is lacking in the country today.

Probably the most contested bill, readied 2 years ago but not yet brought up for debate, is one that aims to introduce Koranic legislation into the penal code. Until now, the application of sanctions in the spirit of the Koran (stoning adultresses or consigning them to a firing squad, and flogging for minor offenders) derives from a concept of justice similar to that inherited from the preceding regime. In present-day Iran, there are both revolutionary tribunals which judge political crimes and crimes "against morality," with a cleric presiding over each one, and courts which dispense ordinary justice. The effort to unify the administration of justice under a single Islamic legislation, called "ghasas"--a move repeatedly urged by Khomeyni himself--has run aground because it is totally estranged from the Iranian judicial culture; furthermore, there is no possibility of establishing such a system within a short time. But also, the proposal to strip the revolutionary courts of their excessive autonomy, put forth last spring in a climate somewhat eased by the army's victories and by an amnesty (8,000 persons released from prison), was promptly dropped, owing mainly to the disapproval of Tehran's two most active and merciless Islamic prosecutors, Lajvardi and Gilani.

Those adversaries of the Islamic republic who have taken up arms against it or have into exile, appear to attribute little significance to these and other internal conflicts to a regime which, in any case, they wholly condemn. The Communist Party (Hezb-e Tudeh), however, exploits such animosities and seek to build a good part of its political initiatives (meager, to tell the truth) around them. The "Tudehi" [Tudeh members] are alarmed by the growth of what they call the "right" (the communists might well figure among the "rightists" first victims), but they are even more dismayed by the lack of any explicit retaliation from the "left." "The population is becoming increasingly dissatisfied," says Kianuri, the party secretary. "The proletariat and the disinherited still support the revolution; if they sensed any danger to Khomeyni, they would intervene to save him. But given the political armistice and the countless hardships of daily life, with no one knowing who exactly is responsible for what, disaffection is spreading."

Nevertheless, the Communist Party continues to support the Islamic republic and the "Imam's line," at the same time pursuing a semilegal venture: with its daily newspaper closed down 1 year ago, it publishes and distributes a semi-monthly bulletin ("We circulate 80,000 copies," they say.). They are probably right when they assert that their ideas, although rejected because of their source, do in fact exert a certain influence; indeed, the communists subscribe in part to the tenets cherished by one wing of the Islamic party, the least fundamentalist, which demands greater decision in social reforms, a quick end to the war with Iraq ("We begged the government not to attempt the attack on Basra, but no one listened to us"), and less severity in the repressive measures and in the Islamization of customs.

One of the most delicate problems confronting Khomeyni's entourage is the question of assuring his succession. The constant delays in appointing the

collegial organism which will decide who is to replace the Imam in exercising the "velayate faq-ih" (role of the nation's guide, stipulated in the Constitution) bespeaks an understandable embarrassment. This is not a problem which can be solved within Khomeyni's faction alone, but rather which concerns their relations with all the other Shi'ite religious leaders. Iran's foremost ayatollahs, especially (also called the "sources of imitation"), must be taken into account: Golpayeghani, Shari'atmadari, Marashi, Shirazi, Qomi and Khoi, none of whom can be said to be inferior to Khomeyni from a strictly religious point of view, nor so considered. It is common knowledge that none of them have ever really taken a stand in favor of Khomeyni; to the contrary, they have all remained aloof from the revolution, for the most part in silence. Khomeyni's entourage, in fact, lacks the necessary "religious" authority to act as arbiter of the succession; the ayatollah Montazeri, unwaveringly loyal to Khomeyni, indeed his only follower appointed to participate in the collegial faqih, has nothing of the stature required to take over the reins from the Imam.

So, a battle is being waged on this front also, although with more discretion. The most dramatic battle concerned Shari'atmadari, one of the most authoritative candidates of the moderate clergy and certainly one of the principal "grand electors." Brought to court by Qotbzadeh for having joined the conspiracy against the Islamic republic, during the trial Shari'atmadari was the target of fierce attacks, which destroyed his public image. The campaign against him lasted one week, then suddenly ceased. The demand to bring the aged ayatollah into court was instantly rejected; there are limits no one dares go beyond, even in the Islamic republic.

Despite the gravity of all these problems, it is highly improbable that the present regime will stray very far from its declared course. A swerve toward moderation in order to attenuate the pressures imposed on the population seems not only premature but also beyond the capacity of the present administration. It is true that ex-prime minister Bazargan still holds his seat in Parliament along with a score of freindly deputies, but their political activities have been reduced to a minimum, limited mainly to publishing a few pamphlets, in which they cautiously state their position on issues of the moment, and to the caustic remarks uttered by the elderly engineer [Bazargan], which are known all over Tehran within a few hours. In the short term, as long as the present situation lasts, there is no function Bazargan and his partisans can perform. The government leaders have burned too many bridges behind them; certainly, they cannot turn back now.

But if there is one place where the Islamic republic is gambling on its own destiny, that place is the road to Basra. For several days now, everything has been in readiness for a new assault on the Iraqi to follow the offensive that failed last July. Even a date has been set--the second anniversary of the war's outbreak. Yet this time, no one can say that the offensive will actually be launched; many in Tehran realize that another defeat could be too risky--and possibly fatal--for the regime to take such a momentous decision lightheartedly.

NEW SUPREME COURT MEMBERS APPOINTED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Oct 82 p 2

[Text] Four judges and clergymen have been presented as members of the new bodies of the Supreme Court. In a conversation with KEYHAN announcing the names of some of the new Supreme Court members, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, chief of the Supreme Court, explained the new makeup of the Supreme Court which will take shape soon. The chief of the Supreme Court announced the names of four new members of the Supreme Court, as follows: "Ayatollah Seyyed Abolfal Mir-Mohammadi, Ayatollah Imani, Ayatollah Feyz, and Ayatollah Rafi'-Naseri."

He also stated that the new bodies of this court have been completely set up, a number of the judges also have been named and their personnel actions have been issued. In a few days when the rest of the judges for the organizational posts are named, the present Supreme Court will be dissolved and the new bodies shall be established. Thoroughgoing changes have been effected in the new bodies, among them, the number of branches have been doubled; that is, 10 branches have become 20 branches; and the number of councilors, whose excessive number in a branch seemed to cause delays and obstruction of work, has been reduced; and the number of persons has been reduced from 4 to 2.

In this conversation, the chief of the Supreme Court added: "A number of clergymen have joined the Supreme Court, and all their names will be announced together with their organizational posts shortly. Here, I should mention that this job was urgent since by establishing the penal investigation branches 1 and 2, the Supreme Court had to study the problems of limitations, retaliation, bloodwite, plea bargaining as well as investigation of penal and legal files. And this work was carried out because, more than before, the need was felt for these changes together with the new bodies.

Regarding the number of members of the Supreme Court, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: "There should be at least 10 members, including the chief justice of the Supreme Court."

CSO: 4640/15

BAZARGAN CIRCULATES LEAFLET TO PUT HIS STIFLED VIEWS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 93, 14 Oct 82 p 2

[Text] Former premier Mehdi Bazargan's political group Nehzat Azadi (Freedom Movement), has distributed leaflets in Tehran criticising the mullahs for their warmongering and their lack of regard for the welfare of the people.

This seeming new move by Bazargan has caused so much anger among the ruling mullahs that a well-known hardliner, Mullah Karoobi, of the Martyrs Organization, called for Bazargan's arrest last Friday.

It is believed Bazargan originally planned to make his point against the government policies in a pre-agenda speech at the Majlis.

But he was not allowed to take the floor, so his supporters printed the text of his speech in a leaflet and distributed it widely.

In it Bazargan called on Iran's rulers to leave the people free to manage some of their own affairs, to give up over-centralization of every kind of activity in the hands of the government and finally to look seriously for ways of ending the war.

Bazargan has in particular attacked the government for trying to take over the private sector's role. He said the private sector has shown its ability to work in many fields but power-hungry petty officials did not allow it to carry out its job.

Bazargan said that although there was a great deal of work to be done to reconstruct the war-damaged areas and get the economy on its feet, the government was looking for new ways of creating tension.

Karoobi replied to Bazargan's charges by reminding him of the failures of the provisional government which he headed after the revolution. Karoobi said that what Bazargan said these days reminded the people of what Bazargan's jailed colleague Amir Entezam was advocating in late 1979.

Majlis speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, meanwhile, made an indirect reference to Bazargan's letter by announcing that the Islamic Republic would like to get down to some constructive work but foreign and domestic enemies were intent on creating tensions.

Many of the points raised in Bazargan's leaflet were originally contained in an open letter circulated in Tehran in early September by a group calling itself the Iran Civil Service Association.

The association claimed to represent the bulk of Iran's purged and retired technocrats and was very active last year, circulating open letters criticizing specific government policies. But for the past six months IPS has received no news from it until last week, when one of the association's sources informed IPS of a new open letter.

CSO: 4600/62

MULLAHS WILL CARRY ON WITH WAR

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 93, 14 Oct 82 pp 1,8

[Text] Tehran's mullahs, in a move described variously as "courageous" and "foolhardy," this week allocated another 1.9 billion dollars to the war with Iraq and reaffirmed their intention to fight on until they had achieved their aims.

The approval of the additional budget, on top of the approximately 5 billion dollars already approved for the war by the Majlis, came as both Iran and Iraq claimed they had repulsed new offensives by the other side. Baghdad has been claiming huge Iranian losses in this latest phase of the war near the town of Mandali, situated near the Iranian border on the shortest land route to the Iraqi capital.

Iran's Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Tehran radio that the latest military operations were not Iran's final move, and said that if Iraq did not concede Iran's demands it was planned to advance right up to Baghdad. "As we have said," he added, "our demands must be met and the aggressor punished."

The Iranian government's decision to allocate more money to the war comes as there were new signs of a toughening of the public mood over the hardships they now face. The latest display of public exasperation with the authorities came after floods had caused havoc and a number of reported deaths in north-western Tehran last Friday; angry demonstrations condemning the government and municipal officials erupted afterwards. The government, the protestors claimed, was ignoring the needs of the people.

People claimed officials had done nothing to help the homeless after the floods, which local people contended were the result of official negligence over ensuring flood canals were not blocked.

Both before and after the floods Khomeyni and other officials were responding to a growing storm of complaints over shortages and high prices. Khomeyni's theme, echoed by his aides, was that there would bound to be shortages when the country was fighting America and protecting Islam, and those who complained were not good Muslims.

With complaints even appearing in the press as well as widely aired in public places the campaign against the Great Satan (America) has snowballed in recent weeks. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati even took to it to impress the international community at the United Nations this week, along with warning Iran would block the Persian Gulf if Iran was prevented from selling its oil. Back in Iran fulminations against PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his organization were the only matters which competed with the anti-American tirade in speeches and radio commentaries. Arafat was described as a traitor to Islam and Tehran, albeit innocently, echoed Israel's charges that the PLO is not the true representative of the Palestinian people. It criticized, observers construed, even hardline Arab countries like Syria, in some of its comments.

The angry public protests over the floods in Tehran were a new sign that the mood of frustration over hardships is extending in Iran and that the public are losing their inhibitions about speaking out. Tehran's mayor, after a couple of days of silence, told a press conference that Friday's unduly heavy rain had caused floods that could not have been foreseen and that the public must cooperate with each other to deal with such emergencies. This understandably did not pacify the protestors, and the agitation grew to such an extent that the cabinet met to approve help for victims and to announce that officials responsible for the disaster must be brought to book. There were also new reports of bomb attacks and violence in different parts of the country. Doctors working at hospitals in Tehran said the number of casualties being treated daily suggested the announced incidents were only a small part of the bombings which were going on, and the number of people dying was considerably more than one might glean from the press.

CSO: 4600/62

GET RID OF YOUR GUILT COMPLEX, HOMAYOUN TELLS EXILES

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 93, 14 Oct 82 pp6-8

[Text] Dariush Homayoun, a leading Iranian journalist and a former minister of information, has called on the Iranian exile communities to shake off their guilt complex and brace themselves for launching a crusade to build a new, progressive-looking and strong Iran.

Writing in IRAN VA JAHAN, a weekly publication in Persian published in Paris, Homayoun assures his readers that, like the phoenix, Iran has always been able to rise up from the ashes with renewed youth to live again.

"Throughout history Iranians have been their own worst enemies and yet they have had an incredible capability to stop at the brink and to start a new life all over again," he says. "Sooner or later the present group who, under the name of Iranians, are holding sway over our country will drown in the sea of blood which they have created and once again we can say that our country belongs to us."

Homayoun then asks what should the large communities of Iranians in exile do in the meantime. In an assessment of what the exiles have achieved so far, and indeed how they all came to be driven away from their homes, he finds much to be desired. Referring to the early days of the revolution he explains how most of the existing exiles were at that time engulfed in politics of self-delusion and self-destruction.

"Many of us did not believe that the Islamic revolution would collapse over our heads and ruin Iran," he writes. "Many of us were either taking part in demonstrations, going on strike at offices or engaging in political polemics in defence of Khomeyni. We even voted for the Islamic republic, were angry at those who tried to tell us the truth; although we were products of a particular regime and a particular period in our history we were not prepared to see a single positive point, a single praiseworthy aspect in that regime which had given us so many benefits. We were ready to concentrate on a slight fault to condemn the totality of the regime. We were affected by jealousy, envy, self-deception and narrow-minded egotism."

"We were ready to find all sorts of commendable characteristics for Khomeyni; and when somebody would remind us of Khomeyni's own book on the rule of the

clergy (Velayat-e-Faghih) we would evade the issue. We were set on believing in Khomeyni in a feat of emotionalism and would not listen to logic.

"When the spate of executions, confiscation of property and all that lawlessness began we would support them as long as they did not affect our interests. Many of us even publicly approved of the executions. We claimed that merely holding a high office under the previous regime was sufficient reason to execute a person. In the beginning we were no better than the Islamic judges in condemning the innocent. We were contemptuous of those individuals who were being defamed by the regime's mouthpieces. We began to cast doubts on the legitimacy of the regime only when its excesses were extended to harm our own personal interests."

Homayoun claims that initially only a few people began to fight the Khomeyni regime effectively. It was the regime's own folly and excesses which turned the overwhelming majority of Iranians against it.

"The time came when it was no longer possible to bear the Khomeyni regime," he writes. "Even then we began to find excuses; we would attribute the lawlessness and atrocities of the Khomeyni regime to the legacy of the previous regime. We would quite easily blame the old regime for what the new regime was doing.

"We simply suffered from a guilt complex. We were trying to find excuses and scapegoats for our own shortcomings. When we were confronted with adverse conditions we suppressed our best characteristics and let our worst side surface."

He argued that there was no need to negate all positive aspects of the country's life in the past just because Iranians had faced a defeat. He then says that defeat turned all Iranians back to individualism, into isolation and self-negation. Those who were lucky enough to salvage their wealth and bring it out were constantly claiming that they were poor. Those who had lost everything and were able to simply save their own necks were jealous of others who had saved their wealth from the clutches of the mullahs.

"Worse still," he says, "as large communities abroad Iranians failed to set up associations for their own welfare, cultural life and charitable work. While many of them had large sums of money they failed to invest in projects which would provide employment for impoverished ones; those who did give employment to other Iranians suffered from their irresponsible ways. Despite their large numbers and good facilities Iranians abroad failed to form themselves into strong communities, to lobby for their case, to contribute to their cause in a manner which would embrace universality. They even did not bother to look around and see how exiles from other countries -- e.g. Cubans in the United States -- had fared. They did not learn from the solidarity of the Turkish workers in Germany. In short their record was dismal.

When the initial shock was over some Iranians began to resume the same wasteful, ostentatious life style which they led previously. They would throw

away a fortune at the feet of an Iranian singer in a fit of emotion, but would not spend a farthing for a worthy cause.

Yet, he argues that Iranians are never happy abroad, they have a sense of Iranian identity, a special pride in their national heritage and a deep devotion to their motherland which would not allow them to be absorbed in other identities. These positive characteristics would of necessity survive most strongly and, coupled with the monumental failure of the mullahs, could and should provide the necessary conditions for the liberation of Iran.

Homayoun stressed that Iran would rise from her ashes with a renewed pride and strength.

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AUTHORITIES TIGHTEN SCREW ON CHRISTIANS IN IRAN

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 93, 14 Oct 82 pp 3,4

[Text] Reports from inside Iran indicate that the Christian communities, especially the Armenians, have protested to the authorities over recent moves by the revolutionary guards to impose Islamic rules on non-Muslim Iranians.

Last year Tehran's Central Revolutionary Committee sent a notice to the Christian, Jewish and Zoroastrian leaders reminding them that members of those faiths, especially women, must observe the revolutionary authorities' regulations on dressing, drink and other aspects of personal life.

The notice said that at home the non-Muslims may live the way they desire, but in public places they should conform to the revolutionary regulations. It was also stated that non-Muslims must pay the price of living in Iran by not making or drinking alcohol.

In the beginning the new move led to no overt public resentment by the non-Muslim communities. However, as the time went by the revolutionary guards increased their pressure. Armenians, Jews and members of other minorities were told not to hold mixed receptions in which women and men sat side by side. In private family gatherings they were told they were required to separate menfolk from womenfolk, nor must they drink alcohol or play music.

Revolutionary guards were constantly raiding the well known Armenian Ararat Club to ensure that women and men did not swim in the same pool, play tennis together nor sit in the same room.

However, reaction came when a representative of the revolutionary court, a certain Morteza Hussein, called in representatives of the various Christian communities and told them that they should condemn the Pope in their daily sermons because of the Pope's alleged complicity in the Beirut massacres. Hussein also called on Iranian Jews to condemn the Zionist state; the disheartened Jewish community is said to have agreed.

But the Christian communities, led by the Armenians, held their ground and refused to get involved in the politics of the Khomeyni theocracy. The Armenians were joined by Anglicans, who sent a delegation to Hussein to tell him that their refusal to mix religion with politics meant that Iran's

Christian community would not engage in political activities either for or against the regime.

The matter has not yet been solved. KAYHAN of Sept. 28 has merely reported that the Christians have agreed not to allow Muslim Iranians to participate in their gatherings.

Sources inside Iran said that this means that those Christians who are ethnically Persian may find it impossible to stick to their faith. This is because the Mullahs hold that the main body of Iranian Christians are at the same time ethnically different from other Iranians. In other words, the mullahs are trying to say that the Christian faith should be practised only by Armenians and Assyrians, who are ethnic minorities.

This would be particularly damaging to the members of the Anglican and Presbyterian faiths, who are predominantly ordinary Iranians converted to Christianity over the past 100 years.

The Presbyterian Church has been active since the early 1900's in Tehran, Rezaieh and Kermanshah. The Anglican Church began its missionary work some years later, mainly in Isfahan and Shiraz. While they also endeavoured to convert Gregorians, Armenians and Assyrians who were members of the Church of the East, they managed to convert many Muslim Iranians to Christianity.

Ethnic Persians who in some cases are second generation Christians, face the prospect of being branded by the mullahs as apostates, or Muslims who have turned against Islam.

Zoroastrians have also protested to the mullahs over what their priests call "second class" status. They follow the religion which Iranians accepted before the advent of Islam.

All the non-Muslim communities lived and worshipped unhindered in Iran during the last 20 years of the late Shah's reign. The great mass of Iranians only rarely evinced any religious chauvinism.

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GUARDS GET MORE PAY AS DESERTIONS MOUNT

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 93, 14 Oct 82 pp 2,3

[Text] Following the devastating bomb explosion at Nasser Khosrow avenue in Tehran as many as 500 revolutionary guards were reported to have deserted in the city of Tehran alone, reports from inside the country indicate. The deserters are believed to have headed for remote areas in Khorassan Province where due to several foreign-backed projects on gas and highway construction demand for unskilled labour is high.

Reports suggest that the guards desert either because of fright or because they believe reports that the mullahs are themselves planting the bombs which have killed so many innocent people in Tehran.

However, the deserters find it increasingly difficult to hide from the regime's special inspectors who are dispatched to force young men into recruitment in the revolutionary guards or construction crusade. Those young men who do not join the mullah-controlled militia are subsequently press-ganged into the army if located. Many flee the country illegally.

Faced with the increasing number of deserters minister of interior Nateq Nouri, who also heads the revolutionary committees, told KAYHAN last week that he would seek Majlis approval to raise the salaries of the revolutionary guards who worked as security and law enforcement officers. Nateq Nouri claimed that the pay scale for the revolutionary guards was too low.

"We agreed on a low pay scale for these brothers because they were recruited not for their interest in monetary rewards but for their devotion to Islam and to the Imam," he told KAYHAN. "But now we have come to realise that these brothers can hardly live on the salary we pay. They do not want higher pay but it is our duty to see to it that they are paid enough to live above the poverty line."

Nateq Nouri did not reveal what the pay scales are. However, it is widely known that revolutionary guards attached to the Islamic revolutionary committees are paid salaries much higher than those paid to a policeman or a gendarme. Additionally, the revolutionary guards are known to have a share in the booty when the mullahs order confiscation of the regime's victims' properties.

ORDNANCE CHIEF DISCUSSES MERKAVA TANK DEVELOPMENT

Tel Aviv BAMAHA in Hebrew No 48, 1 Sep 82 p 8

[Interview by David Bender with IDF Ordnance Chief, Brigadier General Ben-Tzion Ben-Bashat, date and place unspecified]

[Text] The Lebanese winter that everyone is hurriedly preparing for will effect more than just commandos and scout units. It appears that the men of the ordnance corps will also have to dig in for winter. In wind, rain and mud they will have to stand on the roadside and repair tanks that are "out of commission" and half-tracks with engine trouble. They will be fighting battles with their tools, hurrying to put things in order, while the metal in their hands is freezing from the cold. "We will overcome, just as we have overcome other difficulties in the course of battle," says chief ordnance officer, Brigadier General Ben-Tzion Ben-Bashat.

In a special interview with BAMAHA conducted on the occasion of Armored Corps Day, Ben-Bashat discussed the role of his unit in the Galilee Peace War, the significant strides made in development, dry storage and the new Merkava tank.

[Question] Brigadier General Ben-Bashat, there is little to be said at this early stage about the Merkava tank, but what can you tell us about its performance on the battle field thus far?

[Answer2] The Merkava tank met our expectations. Although the IDF went immediately into production before the testing was completed, the technical reliability of all systems was very high. We took a calculated risk which proved justified. All the defense systems and the other facets which the Merkava excels in, met our expectations. As far as systems which call for improvement--there are some, and we are continuing to improve and upgrade them constantly. Since the first generation Merkava went into service in the IDF, we have already begun developing a second, more advanced generation. This second generation tank is now in various phases of development.

[Question] Brigadier General Ben-Bashat, a great deal has been said about the outstanding success of the dry storage program developed in the framework of a special section within the ordnance corps, which was called by that name. What problems have been encountered?

[Answer] Thus far, the percentage of problems has been very low, at a level which would be reasonable for any unit.

[Question] A significant portion of the lessons learned as a result of this fighting relate to original Israeli development of warfare systems. Some of these systems were developed by various ordnance corps units. What, in your opinion, is the reason for this high concentration?

[Answer] Over the last 10 years, dozens of developments in dozens of areas related to ground warfare have been introduced. Our direct experience on the battlefield is one of the most important factors. If you sit the best engineers in a sophisticated electronic plant to develop a new anti-aircraft missile, you will get a very sophisticated system that won't work. Many examples of this can be found in development of highly sophisticated systems in the United States which were imported to Israel and found to be very defective and had to be repaired. What is needed is cumulative experience and daily contact with various situations. When I served as head of the tank corps, almost every unit commander knew my home phone number. That is the way to do it. The field personnel find a defect of some kind or feel the need to improve some aspect of the equipment with which they work on a day to day basis and they come to us with requests. The IDF professionals meet with them in the field, learn every detail of the problem and then begin a long process involving many people, to acquire the necessary technology, the budget allowance, etc. Many requests from the field have resulted in very important developments. The ties established between the developers and the field personnel is the reason for all the achievements made in development and implementation of new systems. Also, we developed a high degree of flexibility and appropriate channels for immediate response from the field. We adhere to the general rule: Modification. In this way we can improve upon existing equipment gradually, without necessarily developing a new product and starting from scratch. This method of rapidly improving existing products is less expensive and we excel at it. When you evaluate the great success we've had in implementing original developments, another important factor cannot be ignored: The Jewish genius...

[Question] Brigadier General Ben-Bashat, what new developments can be expected in the near future?

[Answer] The IDF will apparently expand its use of electronic, computerized systems and of course, we will also continue to develop in the direction of defense and survival systems.

As for the ordnance corps, we are now preparing the groundwork for mobile laboratories which will allow us to effect repairs more efficiently. The ordnance corps is preparing a system in which fewer repairs will be made [text illegible] whole units will be changed.

[Question] Brigadier General Ben-Bashat, how would you sum up the activities of the ordnance corps throughout the recent fighting?

[Answer] In comparison with previous wars, we were not really put to the test this time. This time, we were not really able to fully demonstrate our capabilities. In the Yom Kippur War, every level of the corps was put to use and since every tank that was out of service might have been crucial to the outcome of a battle, every piece of equipment had to be repaired immediately. This time, the situation was completely different. It was decided that heavy repair units would not join the fighting forces because there was no fear of a shortage of tanks and a tank that had "fallen" could wait as much as a few days to be repaired.

It is not, however, my intention to imply that the soldiers of the ordnance corps did not work hard or expend a great deal of energy in the field. It was decided that certain units would not go into Lebanon and therefore, here and there, a piece of equipment was left on the roadside until it could be repaired. But, officers do not like to leave equipment that is not working, so there was often a lot of pressure on those units that were in Lebanon.

[Question] What unique difficulties did the ordnance corps face during this fighting?

[Answer] The narrow roads and hilly terrain caused a lot of breakdowns and the use of replacement tanks. For the first time, the ordnance corps had to operate in territory that had not been completely cleaned out. There have, therefore, been dozens of fatalities in the ordnance corps to date, a number relatively larger than the casualties suffered in the Yom Kippur War.

There was, also, another difficulty. It is important for soldiers in the ordnance corps to be close to the type of unit they service at all times. In other divisions, such as a unit responsible for supplying food and ammunition, whether it is one unit or another, they all need the same food. But a mechanic trained to repair a Centurian, who has all the replacement parts for that vehicle only, cannot repair a broken jeep. He would not have at his disposal the appropriate parts. In some cases, breakdowns were repaired using alternate parts or makeshift apparatus, although this is not always a plausible solution.

[Question] What is the essence of the mission, today [text illegible]

[Answer] The ordnance corps is now looking at an even larger task than at the beginning of the fighting. The ordnance corps has to execute repairs for the IDF to allow equipment to go into dry storage. It is long, difficult task that requires additional preparation. We released our reservists early, but only so that we could call them back again, after a brief vacation, to perform these functions.

[Question] How many days will ordnance corps reservists serve this year?

[Answer] We have figured out that certain reserve groups which specialize in certain types of tanks, will be needed 150 days this year, while others may only be called for 15 days. The solution we have adopted, therefore, is to try to spread the burden as evenly as possible, even it each and every

reservist is not used in exactly his field of expertise. We have established a balanced division of labor according to which every reservist in the corps will serve between 80 and 90 days.

[Question] Brigadier General Ben-Bashat, what impact will the Lebanese winter have on soldiers in the corps? Are you preparing for special difficulties?

[Answer] When the temperature falls below zero, steel freezes your hands and it is difficult to repair an electronic system in rain and mud. Physical changes occur and special procedures have to be worked out. The work will be accomplished under particularly difficult physical circumstances, but the ordnance corps soldiers, who work all year in repair shops under difficult physical conditions, without lighting at times and sometimes without even the feeling of belonging and identification with a unit, due to distance, have already proven their ability to function well when they are needed.

A few days ago I toured Beirut and met a large group of ordnance soldiers. They talked with me about how to improve the system. It was a pleasure to hear soldiers serving under such difficult conditions complaining about conditions that relate to improving operations. There is no better proof of the quality of the people and their motivation. That is something to be proud of.

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NEW ROAD WORK NETWORK FORESEEN FOR GALILEE

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 82 p 13

[Article by Yareah Tal: "The Galilee Peace Road Test"]

[Text] From one war to the next the network of roads improves in northern Israel. The need for an interconnecting road network to transport large military forces quickly from the center of the country to the front has, in the past, brought about plans for road development and construction. In the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War--and as a result of it--new, fast roads were paved, like the Golan-Ami'ad-Farud Road or the Shfar'am-Nazareth Road and others (which increased access to the Golan Heights).

The Galilee Peace War, too, will apparently bring in its wake new plans for road construction in the north, this time for roads leading to the Lebanese border.

The need for an alternate road to the existing northern coastal road (the check post is at the intersection of the Haifa-Acre-Naharia-Rosh Haniqra roads), was brought home during the last war when long caravans of military vehicles, mostly huge tank carriers, blocked the only transportation route to the northern sector including Acre and Nahariyya, tying up traffic for miles. Those forces who during the war were moving on the western sector of the southern Lebanese road learned the dangers of a single blocked road. The thought of what might happen if the enemy had an effective air force that could act against our forces on this artery is devastating.

For years now, actually since the Mandate period, detailed plans for building a road around the Haifa-Acre one have been lying in a drawer in the offices of the Department of Public Works. According to the plans, the road would start at the Welman intersection and run to the east of the industrial works and Kiriya Bialik, along "Hafura" (Nahal Gedura) and join up with the Haifa-Acre road at Kibbutz Kfar-Masrik.

Another plan has been held up for 8 years, awaiting approval from the regional urban development committee. The plan calls for paving a road around Acre that would run to the south of the Ne'eman Bridge, around Giv'at Napoleon, crossing over the Acre-Zefat road and hooking up with the existing road to Nahariyya near Kibbutz Lohamei-Hagita'ot. Due to resistance on the part of the Ga'athon and Ne'eman local councils, approval of the plan has been held up for years.

Reducing Traveling Time

It is not only for military reasons that construction of an artery around the Haifa-Acre road is necessary. The main road from Haifa to Acre is particularly crowded and currently passes through densely populated areas which have grown and are continuing to grow at a fast pace--young couples with small children in the main. It will be necessary to build an outer road that would reduce the traffic burden on the existing artery and turn it into a road for internal service. This would be in the interest of the security and convenience of the local residents.

When the master plan for road development in the north is carried out, at least three fast arteries will be available to travelers, running the full length of the Galilee. There will also be a few perpendicular roads, connecting the western coastal road to Tiberias, Nazareth and other destinations. These roads will significantly decrease the travel time from central or southern Israel to the north, and from the western Galilee to the east or south.

The need for developing the Galilee, in view of the settlements established in the central and western areas, and for defense purposes which emerged from the Yom Kippur War and the Lebanon War, has brought about the implementation of these plans, some of which are now in progress, some completed, and others which have been delayed by "Jewish Wars," budgetary constraints and the like.

Next year, the paving of the leg from Ramat Yishai to Kibbutz Solelim should be completed, creating a continuous artery beginning at Wadi (Milk) and continuing through Yoqe'am, Ramat Yishai, Hasolelim, Tzomet Golani and Tiberias. Another road, parts of which have been paved or are being paved, runs from Kfar Manda into the Shfar'am-Nazareth road. It will also run through the new settlements at Gush Shagav and its neighbors--Manot and Marvah. It will cross the Sakhnin road to join up with Karmi'el. Yet another road will connect the Tefen settlements with the Acre-Zefat road, from Dayr-al-Asad to Manof.

A real boom in road construction is underway in the Haifa area. Next month, a road skirting Nesher is scheduled for completion and it will connect the Yagur intersection and the Haifa intersection (near the shopping center) via a direct two-lane road, 7 meters wide with 3 meters of shoulder and 5.5 kilometers long. The construction cost 120 million shekel. After its completion, the Check Post Road will be for internal use only. Traffic flow will be lighter and lives will be saved.

The road skirting Nesher is part of a broader plan for developing the northern access to Haifa. The plan calls for the road to be paved beyond Nesher, beyond Shderot Hahistadrut, and to hook up with the southern accesses to Haifa and the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway. Thus, there will be a faster road, parallel to the one which today runs through lower Haifa. That road today is so crowded--especially from morning to late afternoon--that traffic is perpetually tied up and it is strangling commerce. Traffic from Nazareth

and Qiryat-Tiv'on will also benefit from better roads. In the future, another road will be paved to connect the Yagur intersection with Qiryat-'Ata. It will run parallel to the Desha'im Factory.

For the last 2 years, there has been a stubborn battle waged over the construction of a 600 meter leg that is supposed to connect Qiryat Haim ("shanty town") and the valley road south of Qiryat Bialik with the Qiryat-'Ata road and skirt Kfar Bialik. For over a year the work has been at a standstill due to an argument between the Qiryat-Bialik municipality and local residents on the one hand, and the Department of Public Works on the other. The argument will cost taxpayers 13 million shekel.

A Threat to Bike Riders

The municipality of Qiryat-Bialik had actually requested the construction of the road to relieve traffic on the existing artery which runs by schools and through the heart of the residential sector. But the plan backfired in a sense because the traffic that will flow on the new byway will pose a threat to hundreds of bicycle riders, children who ride in every morning from the north on their way to the ORT school on Hagalil Street. The municipality demanded a special underground pass for pedestrians and cyclists. The Qiryat-Bialik farmers who had demanded the alternate routing of the existing road came up with another demand--a safe passageway for their tractors. The Department of Public Works, for technical and budgetary reasons, rejected the demands and only agreed to install traffic lights at the intersections.

The Department of Public Works gave the Qiryat-Bialik municipality an ultimatum: If the plan is not approved soon, they will tear down the road. The ball is now in the hands of the Qiryat-Bialik municipality which has scheduled an administrative meeting to approve (or reject) the plan.

Highway planning and development is also an outgrowth of political decisions. Engineer Leo Gabri'el, the Department of Public Works' regional representative for Haifa, notes that if, for example, it is decided at the governmental level to stay in southern Lebanon, there would be implications for the planning and development of roads in the north. If, for example, the port of Haifa were to serve southern Lebanon as well (and perhaps Jordan, too, in the future), this would effect the planning and development of road networks to and from the port.

Engineer Gabri'el points out that in any event there would be a need for widening the Acre-Nahariyya road into a highway with two lanes in each direction, to allow for a steady flow of traffic.

Modern armies and economies need good, fast roads--he emphasized. He predicts that the Lebanon War will cause a real flurry in the development of a modern road network in the north.

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BRIEFS

LAND WARFARE SYSTEMS--The Galilee Peace War has spurred the Defense System's initiative to develop land warfare systems--said a high army official when, following the Galilee Peace operation, it became clear that air and marine systems had proven themselves. The Minister of Defense recently appointed Dr Ben-Tzion Neve, the man who developed the Tel-1 cluster bomb and served as general manager of Rafael until the beginning of the year, to head Rafael's research and development unit. Former Rafael general manager, Dr Ze'ev Bonen, is also returning. The goal--to improve and increase the pace of land warfare systems development. Parallely, the development of air and marine warfare systems will continue and special needs for the IDF will be identified to increase effectiveness in times of war. [Text] [Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A No 21 in Hebrew 3 Sep 82 p 9] 9811

NAHAL COMMANDER PROMOTION--Colonel Eshkol was born and raised on Kibbutz Ayan-Hamifratz. It was there that he completed his secondary studies. He is a graduate of the National Defense Academy and a veteran tour guide, having completed a government course in Israeli studies. He has been involved in defense and settlement for more than 30 years. In 1953 he enlisted in the IDF and began his career in a Golani unit where he served as a battalion officer. In 1955/56 he commanded a scout unit in the southern regional command. When he was released from the army, he was sent to help establish Kibbutz Nir-Oz. In 1957 he returned to the army as a career officer and was appointed Lt Commander of a paratroop scout unit. During the Six-Day War he fought with the Harel Unit in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Taiyba and Jericho and participated in battles up to the bridges over the Jordan. For 4 years he was unit commander of an armored battalion and during the war of attrition he served in the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and Sinai. He was wounded twice in battle. In September 1972 he was released from the army but he returned to serve when the Yom Kippur War broke out. After crossing the Suez Canal with his unit, he was promoted to deputy commander of the Harel armored corps. In August 1980 he was appointed commander of the Nahal which he continued to command during the Galilee Peace War. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Aug 82 p 8] 9811

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INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS DEH

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 30 Aug - Sep 82 p 3

[Interview with Maj Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Deh, minister of health and social affairs, by Kane Selly; date and place not specified]

[Text] Health is a matter for all of us. So that the health service will be effective and therefore be available to everyone the people should inform the ministry of any errors made by health service personnel in the conduct of their duties. However, the people should show more maturity by avoiding denouncing officials for the simple pleasure of slandering them. Despite the complexity of their tasks the health service personnel should show a real concern for human values. These are the main ideas which we obtained in the interview with Maj Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Deh, minister of health.

[Question] The Mauritian people complain a great deal about their health. What are you thinking of doing to correct this situation?

[Answer] It is difficult to satisfy everyone when it is a matter of a service which everyone has need for. Each person has his own view of the situation and therefore has a fixed idea on this or that problem. However, you have to recognize that this dissatisfaction is justified for several reasons:

1) Health is a very complicated matter. I feel that it should not be left only to those who are engaged in it as a profession but should rather be a matter for all of the people. This leads me to say that the people also have a portion of the responsibility, even if medical personnel are also partially responsible. I would like to see the people, the Ministry of Health as a political and administrative body, and medical personnel look for ways and means of working together to improve the situation affecting our health.

The people, as I said should inform the ministry of all mistakes made by medical personnel in carrying out their duties. The people should also inform the ministry of any errors in the management of the health service, of

any shortages of medicines--in short of anything affecting the proper conduct of the health service, both immediately and in the longer term. The people should avoid denouncing personnel just to amuse themselves or their neighbors. They should present criticisms and comments which are objective and proper and submit them where they should be made. Unfortunately, it often happens that people in the hospitals and hospital centers do not follow instructions which creates within these centers a kind of infernal disorder and a total lack of public health and hygiene. Before I consider the matter of medical personnel, I would ask the people to help us, to understand us, and to respect discipline to allow us to improve this worrisome situation.

Regarding the medical personnel, I know that they have to work under difficult conditions and in an atmosphere unlikely to encourage good performance. However, there is a minimum which medical personnel should provide to the people. This consists in particular of a humane attitude, availability, and the interest which they have in the future of their country, as well as the constant kindness with which they should treat sick persons. In short, they must show respect for the people and their profession.

Furthermore, medical personnel should keep in mind the fact that the task assigned to them is difficult and complex and that for this reason this mission demands of them sincere concern for human values.

The unanimous testimony of the people is that there is a certain lack of respect for sick people which is notably lacking on the part of our medical personnel. Some people think that the medical personnel have not had the training they need. Others say that medical personnel, despite our 20 years of independence, are still attached to the old colonial practices. They feel there is a lack of nationalism, due in part to the delay in carrying out the takeover of health services by Mauritanian personnel.

In fact there is something in all this, although we should note that we are fortunately obtaining the services of more and more doctors and that in the near future the tendency will be toward the Mauritanianization of the medical services.

2) There is a shortage of medical resources. As you know, Mauritania, like all Third World countries, is faced with a difficult situation. The Military Committee of National Salvation decided in 1978 to implement a policy of austerity. It is due to this decision that, day after day, we feel more independent of countries which once provided Mauritania with money. We are also more realistic about ourselves: there is no more waste, and we are managing our own resources in terms of our needs. Before 1979 we were managing our resources but we did not have them under effective control and we did not know where our resources came from and what they were used for.

We are a country of limited means and we should depend on ourselves first of all. That is why the resources available to the medical service are certainly inadequate. To deal with this shortage of resources, we need proper and realistic management, and this is what we will have, God willing, in order to improve the health situation. As you know, available resources consist of

human and material facilities. In terms of material resources the CMSN [Military Committee of National Salvation] has provided the ministry with resources which are certainly insufficient but which are quite appropriate, considering the financial resources of our country. Regarding our human resources, we have planned for the training of our doctors and specialists in the different branches of the health service, in order to make up for the very great shortage in this area. This has been done in full agreement with the Ministry of Employment and Training. Existing personnel are inadequate in quality and in numbers to provide for the needs of our people. However, as I said before, we are beginning to have qualified, high level personnel in different specialties (cardiology, gynecology, surgery, pharmaceuticals, etc). These people will be properly spread out throughout the country to meet the needs of our masses.

[Question] The WHO has established the objective of health services for all by the year 2000. What has been done in our country to attain this objective?

[Answer] To attain this objective, the CMSN and the government have approved a health policy whose main elements are:

- Priority to preventive medicine and particularly care for mothers and children.
- Health education.
- Control of the principal, endemic diseases, such as bilharziosis, tuberculosis, and malaria.
- Hygiene and basic public cleanliness.
- Extension of health services to the rural areas, particularly by the establishment of a system of basic health care involving active participation by local government.
- improving our capabilities for collecting information, for management, and for planning at all levels of the national health system.
- Training of various kinds of personnel needed to carry out our tasks and to ensure providing an adequate level of services for all of our people.

On the basis of these efforts, major achievements are underway or will be achieved in the near future:

- Construction of 12 maternal and child health centers, 10 modern health centers, 10 modern departmental health centers, and four regional hospitals and one tuberculosis care hospital have been built or are in the course of completion.
- Nearly 300 traditional midwives and more than 100 community health workers have been trained for the benefit of rural government entities. A plan for the training of personnel is being developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Employment and Training.
- A committee is engaged in reorganizing the courses, programs, and teaching methods of the National School of Nurses and Midwives. In this way there will soon be established in this school an Arabic language section covering the different teaching disciplines so far available. In fact, despite the decision of the CMSN to introduce Arabic as the national language, medicine

remains a prerogative of the French language. With the adoption of this measure we will therefore remedy this major defect in responding to the aspirations of our people and thus achieving one of our national goals.

However, we should recall that the level of achievement of the WHO objective, that is, medical services for all by the year 2000, is closely linked to the general development of the country, on which it closely depends.

[Question] Health services for all will require an expanded program of basic health training. What do you plan to do in this area?

[Answer] To attain the WHO objective of medical services for all by the year 2000, it will be necessary to train sufficient personnel both in terms of numbers and quality. This aspect of training will be followed closely by the ministry. As I said in reply to one of the preceding questions, we have planned a program of training in cooperation with the Ministry of Employment and Training. This kind of training will take place on two levels: within the country for subordinate personnel, midwives, nurses employed by the state, nurses, and graduates of the National School of Nurses and Midwives. Each year about 100 students graduate from this school. The second type of training will take place in various countries overseas: for example, in the Ivory Coast, the Soviet Union, Senegal, in France, and in the Arab countries, etc. We have enough medical students, such as in Dakar, where 75 are being trained in the different branches of medicine.

We should note that the training of doctors takes a very long time, but in the next few years we think that the total number of our doctors will take care of the needs of our people.

[Question] In the general policy statement of the CMSN the liberalization of the medical professions was included. Where do we stand in the application of this provision?

[Answer] In fact the liberalization of the medical professions is an irrevocable decision of the Military Committee of National Salvation. It is a decision which will, however, require a great deal of time and the allocation of substantial resources. The laws and regulations on this matter have been prepared. The supporters of private health care will have substantial facilities made available to permit them to carry out their plans under good conditions. This ministry has already authorized a Mauritanian doctor to establish a private program of medical training. We have also received other requests of this kind to which responses will be made very soon.

Since I became the head of the Ministry of Health, I have appointed a committee to study this question and provide us with the reasons which have prevented the implementation of this decision up to now. This committee has just given us its report, and the conclusions will be brought to the attention of the cabinet.

However, it should be noted that the laws in force provide for a certain number of conditions which our doctors are required to meet before they are available for private medical practice. However, up to the present our doctors and pharmacists are still very young, and few of them have completed the years of service required for them to be detached from the state medical service. Furthermore, private medicine is very expensive because it requires sophisticated equipment and particularly well-qualified personnel. Therefore, it is a little beyond the local financing capability, both in terms of the promoters of such services and local banks. The Military Committee of National Salvation is encouraging those who wish to invest in this sector. My ministry is placing at the disposition of interested persons all information necessary for implementation of this decision.

However, I would like to make clear here that foreigners who would like to invest in this sector may do so without any fear. The only condition is that their investment must be substantial. That is, they must invest in order to establish polyclinics which handle laboratory analyses, surgery, and hospital care.

[Question] Talk is often heard of corruption among health personnel. What is this all about?

[Answer] In all of the developing countries there is always talk of corruption. This is a phenomenon which is found everywhere--more particularly in some countries and less so in others. However, there is no corruption without the cooperation of the people. I know that this or that is attributed to us, but the people who are victims of these illegal practices have never denounced those who act in this way. In any case I would like to tell you that my ministry will never hesitate to take extreme action against persons who act improperly and dishonestly in performing their duties. Let those among our medical personnel who have the habit of acting in this way know that they will be severely punished if the allegations are confirmed. I warn them and ask them to abandon this anti-national and shameful practice. They should know that they are exposing themselves to the possibility of civil imprisonment. The CMSN has created the Special Court of Justice and has turned over to it the repression of such infractions of the law. Therefore, I ask that people stop being corrupted and being accomplices to corruption.

[Question] The supply of medicines to our country seems inadequate, judged by the repeated lack of medicines in our health units. Can you tell us how medical supplies are arranged for?

[Answer] The supply of pharmaceutical products is arranged for either by the National Pharmaceutical Company [Pharmarim] for its outlets or by the Pharmacy of Supply [Pharmacie d'Approvisionnement] for medical units in the country or by the National Hospital for its various services. However, it should be made clear before I go into further detail that the Pharmarim is a commercial company which imports pharmaceutical products and provides for their distribution by its outlets which are often established in regular capitals. Regarding the Pharmacy of Supply and the National Hospital, they

are publicly owned bodies which certainly import pharmaceutical products but provide them to the patients free of charge.

To return to your question, it should be noted that the bodies which I have mentioned each used to import, as far as they were concerned, from different sources of supply, which greatly reduced the role of our supply system. Since I was appointed to be head of the ministry, we decided to consolidate all these separate orders. Thus, we designated the Pharmarim, which is a state owned company, to be our source of supply of pharmaceutical products. A team composed of representatives of the Health Service, the Pharmarim, the Pharmapro [Pharmacy of Supply], and the National Hospital will plan our pharmaceutical orders on a 6-months' basis. The Pharmarim will carry out this plan, since it will have the necessary banking facilities. In my view, this will make it possible to avoid the shortages which we have experienced at times. The Pharmarim will sell at cost (that is, without a profit) to the National Hospital and to the pharmacy of Supply the medicines which they need. It is this committee which will also halt the rise in prices.

In another connection I would also mention to you that we have already been in contact in Paris with the different pharmaceutical producing companies, asking them to grant us certain facilities, such as preferential prices and commercial credit with payment deferred for 6 to 9 months. These proposals have been accepted by these companies.

On the other hand we have the intention of raising with UNICEF the possibility of including us in its supply system, since it places very large orders and its prices are generally very low compared to prices on the international market. The only handicap in this connection is that UNICEF insists on payment in advance. However, if we decide on this last solution, we will obtain pharmaceutical products at half price, which means that we would double our ability to obtain supplies of pharmaceutical products.

To make up for the shortage of medicines provided to the public free of charge, we are hoping to open up offices in the various departments which need them, in terms of the number of their patients or the respective populations.

The policy of the CMSN is to place at the disposition of all Mauritians the pharmaceutical products which they need. We want to relieve all the sufferings of our citizens, wherever they live, rapidly and effectively.

I would also like to take the opportunity which you offer me to call on the people and on medical personnel to undertake a general self-examination, with a view to improving our health and satisfying the legitimate aspirations of our people and to fulfill the hopes placed in us.

In this context I will make trips within our country to see at first hand all the problems which arise, both for the people as well as for medical personnel, and to provide them with adequate solutions to the problems in terms of our resources. On this occasion I urge the people and medical personnel to participate in the improvement of our health.

5170

CSO: 4519/309

PRESS CENSORSHIP, CIRCULATION TRENDS DISCUSSED

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 30 Aug 82 p 4

[Article by Sulayman al-'Usaymi: "More Than 840 Publications Regularly Enter Bookstores; General Director of Publications: Rarely Is Ban Imposed on or Omission Made From Publication Entering Kingdom; Any Publication Has Right to Enter When It Is Beneficial and Compatible With Our Country's Principles and Traditions; Political Papers and Magazines Lead War"]

[Text] Whoever goes to the market to buy a newspaper or a magazine finds himself perplexed by the enormous volume of publications daily entering the kingdom's markets. In addition to Arab newspapers and magazines, there are numerous foreign papers and magazines. The most accessible figure at our disposal shows that the number of foreign monthly magazines in English, French, Italian, German and other languages amounts to more than 800.

The main purpose of this report is to give an idea of the inclinations of the reader who buys these publications. Are they political, athletic, cultural or economic? We have found that political magazines and newspapers lead the way, followed by other publications. For this report to be complete, we have interviewed Musaffar al-Musaffar, general director of publications; the director of al-Juraysi Agency; the director of al-Khazandar Establishment and some sellers.

Survey

A simply survey of the papers and magazines that enter our country leads us to the following figures, which are vast when compared with the Arab or foreign publications that enter other Arab countries: There are more than 30 daily newspapers, 65 weekly magazines, 6 semimonthly magazines, 70 monthly magazines and 4 quarterly magazines. This is as far as Arab publications are concerned.

As for the foreign papers and magazines, there are 1,841 newspapers and magazines. The number of daily papers is 39, weeklies 261, monthlies 825 and periodicals 537.

All of these are circulated in the markets. The circulation volume differs. Some circulate tens of thousands of copies whereas others have a circulation of no more than 30 copies of each edition, depending on the attraction of the

publication's content, production, printing and language and on the publication's maintenance of standards and progress so that the reader does not lose confidence in the paper or the magazine.

Regarding the uncensored entry of some paper, Musaffar al-Musaffar, general director of publications, says:

"Yes, some Gulf papers are exempt from censorship in view of the firm ties among the area's states and in view of these papers' well-known adherence to national principles, which the area's states seek to safeguard and underline in every sphere."

Censorship Measures

Regarding regular censorship measures governing papers and magazines, the contractor [main distributor] brings every morning the samples he receives and returns at exactly 1200 daily to receive the censorship measures. He then distributes the papers and magazines to the markets on the same day or on the following day. A precise system has been established so that we can guarantee that there is no delay in the distribution of any paper or magazine, except in rare cases. The system requires that measures concerning the daily papers be completed 4 hours after the official concerned receives them from the directorate.

As for the weeklies, the measures governing them are completed by the end of the workday on which they are delivered to the directorate. The measures governing monthlies periodicals are completed within no more than 3 days after which they are delivered to the distributors.

Censorship Standards

Musaffar also says: The censorship standards do not exceed the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of the publications law, which are summed up as follows:

1. They must not conflict with our Islamic faith, our principles or our morals and must not cast doubt on them.
2. They must not advocate or develop libertinism or degeneration or injure public morals, either by word or by picture.
3. They must not advocate destructive theories.
4. They must not undermine a national, Islamic or Arab right.

He adds: It is noted that many newspapers and magazines, especially Arab ones, have begun to understand their responsibilities and do not publish materials that undermine one country or another, especially the countries that constantly seek to build the Arab Islamic man, be they the kingdom or other countries of the area. Consequently, it is to be noted that rarely is a paper or a magazine banned or some of its pages omitted for political reasons. This does happen at times because a publication may include a photograph that

cannot be permitted to circulate in the country containing the two holiest mosques. Therefore, there is some sort of follow-up on all papers entering the country.

Entry Measures

Regarding the method followed for the entry of any paper, the general director or publications says:

When the publisher of any magazine or newspaper wishes to bring it into the country, several editions of the publication are perused and a report is prepared on them. This report is presented to the officials in the ministry [of information] so that instructions can be issued on what is to be done in light of the report.

He adds: On the instructions of His Excellency Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, the minister of information, and His Excellency Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Khujah, the ministry undersecretary for information affairs, the directorate does not withhold any publication from the reader as long as the publication is compatible with the principles and traditions of this country and as long as it contains material and information that contribute to reader's knowledge.

Regarding the method of press censorship, he says: All of the newspapers and magazines permitted to enter the country are treated the same and without any discrimination insofar as censorship is concerned. But the quality of some publications makes it easier for the censor to complete the censorship measures more quickly.

Regarding the publications directorate's acceptance of the reactions resulting from the circulation of some papers that contain materials incompatible with the censorship standards, Musaffar says:

Generally, the ministry accepts any purposeful and constructive criticism when it seeks to serve the public interest and accepts any observation made in time by the local press on any [external] publication circulated in the markets. We wish the officials of the local press would contact the ministry officials by telephone as soon as they receive any observations [from the readers] so that matters can be dealt with early.

[Question] Are the papers and magazines presented for censorship kept [on file] and for how long?

[Answer] A copy of every newspaper and magazine is kept. The duration varies from one paper to another. Art and women's magazines, for example are kept for 6 months whereas political papers are kept for a longer time.

Curbing Competition

[Question] What is your position toward the magazines and papers that depend very strongly on Saudi advertising?

[Answer] Instructions have already been issued for taking a stand on the magazines that depend solely on Saudi advertising so as to curtail these magazines' competition with local papers and so that the kingdom's readers can avoid the fleecing done by such magazines.

The directorate has banned numerous such magazines from the local market.

[Question] Is there a follow-up on the papers and magazines after they are put into circulation to make sure that they abide by your regulations.

[Answer] Yes, there is follow-up. But what is noticeable is the great, fruitful and constructive cooperation of the distribution agencies in the kingdom. It is rare for an establishment to circulate a publication without abiding by the instructions given to it.

From the director of publications, we moved to the newspaper and magazine distribution agents in Riyadh. The first interview was with the deputy general director of al-Juraysi Agency, which distributes daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal publications. Khalid al-Juraysi says that it is difficult to give a figure on the quantities distributed by the agency because they are subject to constant fluctuation, depending on seasons and events.

Publications Directorate Jurisdiction

[Question] Do you censor on your part any of the publications that you distribute?

[Answer] There is no censorship on our part because this task is within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Information's Publications Directorate. In case there are topics or photographs unfit for publication, they are omitted.

[Question] Has any edition of a newspaper or magazine ever been withdrawn from the market?

[Answer] No newspaper or magazine has been withdrawn from the market, especially the magazines and newspapers we distribute.

[Question] What was the largest quantity of publications ever destroyed or banned?

[Answer] We don't remember that any of the publications we distribute has ever been destroyed.

The deputy general director of al-Juraysi Agency says that magazines with the largest circulation are, in order; political, sports, art, women's, children's, medical scientific and economic magazines. The number of publications we distribute daily ranges from 10-12. He says that the agency favors no newspaper or magazine. We devote the same care to all of the publications we distribute.

Modest Prices

As for the prices of newspapers and magazines, the prices of the overwhelming majority are considered modest. There are some magazines with very high prices. But we exert efforts with the owners of publishing houses to keep the prices stable, and we are often successful. The cheapest magazines are some children's magazines whose prices range from 6-8 riyals. We believe that reasonable prices range from 3-5 riyals.

[Question] Do you support the presence of these numbers of newspapers and magazines or do you support reducing the number or opening the door for increases?

[Answer] A multiplicity of publications means expanding the educational base and we see no harm in this.

[Question] Does Saudi advertising have a role in the circulation of advertising magazines?

[Answer] It is natural that the magazine spreads the advertisement. Consequently, the advertiser chooses the magazine with wide circulation.

We then interviewed the director of al-Khazandar Distribution Agency, who said that his establishment distributes mostly, foreign publications with a few Arab newspapers and magazines. There are 14 foreign newspapers (U.S., English, French, Italian and German) compared with only 3 Arab newspapers.

Agency's Centers

The agency's main centers are in Jiddah and Riyadh and each has branches in the kingdom's main cities. The branches are in Mecca, al-Ta'if, Bishah, Abha, Jizan, Najran, Yanbu', Tabuk, 'Arâar, Ha'il, al-Qasim, al-Ahsa' and al-Jubayl. These branches distribute by car to the towns and villages close to each branch. The cities and villages to which our branches distribute by car include:

Abhar, Dhahban, Tawl, al-Qudaymah, Rabigh, al-Kharj, al-Hayathim, al-Dulam, al-'Aziziyah, Hawtah, Sudayr, al-Mujamma'ah, Marrat, Darma', al-Aflaj, Shaqra', Dhahran, al-Dammam, al-Khafaji, Khamis Mushayt, Daba Mahayil, Khamis al-Bahr, Abu 'Arish, Bish, Tannumah, al-Hawiyah, al-Huda, Turbah, Sharrurah, Zahran al-Janub, al-Nammas, Badr Khaybar, Abyar 'Ali, Timah, al-Wajh, Haql Daba, al-Hufar, Sikaka, Dawmat al-Jandal, Qarah, Tarif, Rafhah, al-Qaysumah, Hafr al-Batin, al-Qurayyat, Buraydah, 'Unayzah, al-Rass, al-Zulfa, al-Bukayriyah, al-Riyad al-Khabra', al-Habra', al-Hafuf, al-Mabraz, Abuqayq, the Royal Council in al-Jubayl, Rahimah, al-Qatif, Safwah, Sayhat, Ra's Tannurah, al-Atwilah, al-Bahah, (Baljarshi Raynah), Jiddah, Bahrah, Wadi Fatimah and al-Juhum.

The weeklies we distribute are as follows:

One local magazine, 45 political weeklies in English, German, French and Italian and 18 monthlies dealing with economic, cultural, scientific, medical, women's and sports affairs and some concerned with children's activities.

Monthly Magazines

We distribute 800 monthlies in foreign languages (English, Italian, German and French) covering the following fields: construction, movies, television, video, stereo, photography, fashions, decor, gardening, homes, food, sports, soccer, recreation, culture, science, medicine, professions, flying, general affairs, music, recording, banking, cars and motorcycles.

This is in addition to books in more than one language.

Publications

The authority concerned with censoring all publications is the General Publications Directorate of the Ministry of Information. The agency's role is confined to carrying out the instructions for censorship.

Widest Circulation

Foreign papers with the widest circulation are the U.S. papers, followed by British, French, German and Italian papers.

Magazines, whether Arab or foreign, with the widest circulation are the political magazines.

The monthly magazines with the widest circulation are the sports, children's, women's, cultural, medical and scientific magazines.

The number of monthly publications distributed daily is nearly 70, in addition to books.

Al-Juraysi added: As for the personnel working for the agency, there are 200 workers in the main centers and the branches.

He added: The agency is about to introduce an electronic computer system.

Dual Censorship

Every magazine and paper gets its fair share of distribution, attention and censorship. Personal preference has nothing to do with this because distribution is free of all personal preference. There is dual censorship over distribution, namely, field censorship and administrative censorship. We thus guarantee the availability of all papers and magazines at all the distribution outlets in every city and village.

Prices

The agency has nothing at all to do with the prices of papers and magazines. The publishers are the ones who set the prices. However, it is understood that prices are subject to production costs. Production costs abroad, including wages, are still rising. There is also the shipping cost, and it is also noticed that air freight costs are rising steadily. If we take these two elements into consideration, we find that prices are reasonable.

Shipping

There is an unknown factor that increases the cost of papers and magazines for the distributor. The distributor pays the shipping cost of the monthly magazines and of some weekly magazines. This system is not confined to the kingdom but includes most countries of the world. Under this system, the distributor shoulders the shipping cost of the papers and magazines that are not sold and even confiscated ones. The distributor who shoulders these costs adds some of them to his commission, part of which he has to pay to the bookstores selling these papers and magazines directly. A part of the shipping fares is added to the cost. Comparing sale prices in the kingdom and in some of the area's other states, we find that prices in the kingdom are less than in these states.

Political Magazines

The least expensive foreign magazines are the political magazines. Their prices, it is noticed, are comparable to those of Arabic political magazines. The most expensive women's, fashion and architectural magazines, some of which weigh half a kilogram a copy, not to mention the excellent quality of newsprint used for most of these magazines. All of this is reflected in the prices of the magazines.

In fact, we conduct every 3 months a study on magazine distribution to find out the circulation percentage of each magazine. Any magazine found not to be in demand is excluded from distribution.

Sellers

For the picture to be complete, we proceeded to the streets to meet with those who deliver the publications to the reader. The first meeting was with pavements vendors at the entrances of government offices and private establishments and on the corners of main streets. The first interview was with a vendor standing on the pavement of University Street in the middle of the day. Our first question to him was on the papers with the widest circulation. He said that they were the local papers, followed by the Gulf papers. As for foreign papers, he said he had never sold them because his ability to carry all kinds of papers entering the country is limited and that this is why he is content with selling the papers and magazines, especially magazines, that are in demand.

We interviewed the second vendor at the door of one of the ministries. We asked him why he sold the papers at more than the set price. He said that his position is different from that of a bookstore owner because a bookstore owner receives his dues from the papers and magazines at his store whereas he is compelled to go personally to collect his dues. Moreover, he has to move constantly from place to place to find a spot where purchases are high.

He says that there are those who rent their magazines and papers for a certain fee and then sell them or rent them again when they collect them. After collecting these copies, they take them back to the distribution agent

as unsold copies. These people benefit a lot from this operation, which involves a lot of deception. I personally do not engage in this practice (but unsold copies are a possibility).

We interviewed the third vendor on Airport Street. Our first question to him was on selling papers not designated for sale. He said that some distributors pilfer some of the subscriptions [presumably meaning copies belonging to subscribers] and sell them through special means. However, the constant watch imposed on them by the press establishments have caused this undesirable habit to disappear.

We then interviewed the owner of a public bookstore. We asked him about the papers and magazines with the highest circulation in the market and he said they are the sports papers and magazines, adding that the literary and economic publications come at the bottom of the list.

As for the prices of papers and magazines, they are generally modest.

8494

CSO: 4404/703

NEW EDUCATION OFFICE ASSISTS STUDENTS STUDYING IN U.S.

Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 17 Jul 82 p 7

[Interview with Subhi al-Harithi, educational attache in the United States by Mansur al-Qarni: "Concerns of Our Students Overseas"]

[Text] This interview brings us together with a man of learning known for his intelligence and astuteness, in addition to his good manners and extreme modesty. These qualities have gained him the love, esteem and respect of all. He has served education for a long time and progressed through a number of educational positions. Three years ago he was nominated for the position of administrator of one of our educational offices overseas. He is the educational attache in the United States of America, Mr Subhi al-Harithi. He spoke on a number of issues of concern to our students in the U.S. and other countries.

At the beginning of the interview, he spoke on the Office of Education and the nature of its work. The office has been expanded in the last 3 years to accommodate the volume of students who have gone overseas to pursue their studies. "Our concern in the office is to work to solve students' problems, whether they be administrative, financial, social, cultural or academic. The expansion in the number of students has necessitated an expansion in the services of the office corresponding to the preparation and needs of the students, so there now exist a number of divisions: the administrative division, the financial division, the cultural affairs division, the social affairs division, the academic affairs division and the division of research and planning. The first division deals with overcoming the difficulties and nuisances encountered by the Saudi student when applying for acceptance at American universities. This division assumes responsibility for seeing that Saudi students are admitted in the appropriate specialization and the appropriate university in the appropriate location, on the basis of the papers and certificates that come to the office on behalf of the applicant. The division of research and planning is linked with the educational attache and studies issues related to the development of the office or the development of the plan that is drawn up each year. In this way, we prepare a program at the beginning of each academic year that we view as a course we will follow throughout the year. The heads of the divisions help to prepare this plan, as do a number of Saudi and non-Saudi experts. The research and planning division then holds regular meetings throughout the academic year for the heads of the divisions to follow through with execution of the plan and whatever happens to it.

"The fact is that Saudi students are distinguished from other foreign students without exception by the services offered to them. No other foreign, Arab or Islamic students in the U.S. can compete with the Saudi student. The visit of His Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to the expatriate students in the U.S. has had good, positive effects. One of these is the new organization, which experience has proven to be of great benefit to the students overseas--although the former organization was excellent and appropriate for the period in which it was applied. The new organization is suitable for the present phase and new circumstances. In each of these systems, the living standard of the Saudi student remains among the best among foreign students in the U.S.

"Four thousand riyals is spent on each single student for health benefits and 8m000 riyals for married students. If a student tries to adapt himself and take advantage of the existing organizations in the country, he can insure himself through an insurance company at half or less of the cost set aside for medical treatment, and he may keep the rest of the amount, with the knowledge that the health care provided by the government for the student overseas costs no less than this monetary value and that it has been set up as another support from which the Saudi student may benefit. Thus, the state pays the cost of treating incurable diseases--all power belongs to God--and so the students may go into hospitals for operations.

"As for the children, there is a study that I submitted to higher agencies in this regard, and, God willing, it will have good results. In general, the suitability of the new system for medical treatment has been proven, in that the office previously held a referendum on the use of a company to conduct medical services for Saudi students in the United States. This idea received the support of around 500 students. This number is very small when we realize that the number of students under this system is more than 13,000. Another indication of the new system's suitability is that a number of officials in the Gulf States are in contact with brothers in the Saudi Office of Education to learn the components of this system and to study the possibility of applying it in their countries.

"Likewise, the Saudi student is distinguished by his material circumstances. I am pleased to announce to the partnet and officials that the Saudi student's aptitude in American universities has been established, and he has come to compete with the American student. Before I came here I received a letter from an excellent university with an international reputation praising a Saudi student and saying that he would become world-renowned in history. There are a number of such Saudi students who are outstanding in various fields, and we are proud of them. I do not say that all Saudi students exceed the level of foreign students, but their level is high and excellent. The Saudi student is no less proficient than other foreign students; in fact, he competes with the American students themselves. This is something we are very proud of. I have noticed in my meetings with officials in American universities that they have high praise for Saudi students and the efforts they have made, which have earned them the respect and esteem of others. This is a wonderful thing, which reflects the true image of the Saudi citizen in these countries.

"These are the steps that must be considered to help the Saudi student from our conservative Islamic society adjust to American society:

"Before I explain the steps which are taken in this regard, I must say that the Saudi student, with his attachment to his country, his adherence to its customs and traditions and his immersion in its beliefs and its religious teachings encountered in his society with his family, his school and those around him at all phases of his life--all these things enable him to be firm in the face of all the new customs, traditions and circumstances that are at variance with what he was accustomed to in his conservative society. We find that the student, in spite of these new circumstances, remains true to his roots as a result of the Islamic education he has had since childhood from home, school and the conservative Islamic society. In addition, the Ministry of Higher Education takes great interest in this matter and prepares a program especially for the expatriate student to prepare him for overcoming the changes he will confront in the country to which he is sent. And the Office of Education, as the first station to which the student comes and as representative of the Ministry of Higher Education in that country, prepares a program for the Saudi student when he reaches America; he is met and given a complete idea about America and about the city, university or institute to which he has been admitted. All these things are given to the student before leaving the Office of Education. The Division of Social Affairs has been greatly expanded so that it is able to handle the concerns of students coming to study in the U.S. and solve their problems. In addition, a new program has been developed that is a course held in the Islamic University of Imam Muhammad ibn Sa'ud, with the goal of preparing students so they will be fully equipped in all areas--social, economic and political and other information that the student might need in a foreign country is given to him in this course. This helps him to overcome any problems that he may encounter and the new circumstances he will confront. The office has also undertaken a complete follow-up on the process of taking the student from the office to the university, where someone meets him and helps him and solves his problems. You will therefore find that the Saudi student does not usually have any problems, and if he does, they are quite simple and can easily be overcome due to the many ways and means used to prepare the student. I would add that those who go overseas for study now are highly qualified, desiring to move into higher studies for masters and doctorate degrees. This means that the expatriate student has achieved a degree of awareness that enables him to overcome all difficulties. He can take advantage of the services of the Office of Education with great ease. The decision to forbid young students from going overseas has had a great effect and positive results, so that most of the problems that used to occur with these young students have disappeared. This is something beneficial to the Saudi citizen and to the student himself, because it is better for the young student to pursue his studies in a Saudi university, which certainly has programs and facilities with high standards. With regard to its offerings, I emphasize here that the Saudi universities are competitive with American universities in all fields and even surpass them in some respects. This is due to the great efforts expended by our government to raise the standard of education at all levels.

"The considerable facilities provided by the state to the expatriate student through the office are enough to enable the office, with the support of the Ministry of Higher Education and the overseas agencies, to easily carry out the follow-up process with regard to the student, his academic level and all of his affairs, especially since the office was able to recruit excellent workers, in addition to the Saudi element. The existence of the national element is considered an important factor in the follow-up. For this reason, the office is undertaking the follow-up process for Saudi students studying in more than 720 American cities in a number of ways. These include letters to the students themselves, telephone communications and field visits. The follow-up is also carried out by means of contact with the universities and the student's advisor in an effort to find out the grades of each Saudi student. The follow-up is also carried out through the authorities. This is a method the office has used for some time, and it has proven its value. But it is most important that the Saudi student prove that he is trustworthy, so the best way to follow up is by means of the student himself, as his love for his religion, his king and his country always urges him to distinguish himself. The students responded to all that was asked of them for purposes of the follow-up in a way that gives those who are responsible for them reassurance and pride. In this way they have carried most of the burden of the follow-up process and are eager to send in their papers and whatever else is required to the office. There are a few who forget, and we are still working with them by means of requests.

"The aim of the branch offices is limited to helping the Saudi student, solving his problems and overcoming the obstacles in his path. When we decided on an administrative division within the Office of Education, we defined the responsibilities of each section and appointed an advisor for each group of students. This advisor came to know everything about his students, and he might even know them personally due to much interaction with them. This has helped us greatly and has made the task of meeting their needs easier due to the existence of other branch offices. We find, therefore, that there is no need to create other branch offices, because the purpose of these offices is to serve the student, overcome difficulties and follow up on them, and these goals have been met, praise be to God, under the existing structure.

"In fact, you should know that this is not the first gracious service of its kind that the Saudi citizen has obtained under our leadership. If we look at the facts, we will find that the Saudi citizen is always receiving new benefits, whether material, spiritual, economic or political. We find that these noble deeds follow one on another day after day. I believe that this gracious benefit has come as an extension of those that went before it and as a continuation of future benefits, God willing. As for the feelings of the Saudi student, I convey to you, as I previously conveyed to the authorities, the Saudi student's feelings of pride in his leaders, who have enabled him to compete with others in all situations, giving credit to his officials, his government, his state and his leaders, who derive their strength from the Islamic religion and its eternal constitution, the noble Koran. The Saudi student gives credit to his leaders due to the reality of tangible assistance and this leaders' outstanding deeds, which are witnessed by the

Saudi citizen at home and abroad and which have proven beyond a doubt that our officials are distinguished from all others in all situations. Therefore, the Saudi student finds that even in his circumstances and his encounters he is distinguished from other youths. Likewise, the feelings of Saudi students in the U.S., like the feelings of other Saudi students in any location, are feelings of pride and petition to God that He preserve the leadership of this people. Letters and cables have poured in from Saudi students to the royal chancellery with thanks and praise for this noble deed which has come, as I said before, as an extension of previous and subsequent noble deeds. I would like, on behalf of the expatriate students in the U.S. and on behalf of the workers in the Office of Education, and on my own behalf personally, to offer the highest words of thanks and gratitude to His Royal Highness the King and to his government for the gracious things they have done and continue to do for the Saudi citizens. And I pray to God--may He be praised and exalted--that these mighty efforts will be reflected in the student himself, so he will work harder and give in proportion to the efforts spent by our government on his behalf, and that he will take advantage of the numerous privileges that make him unique among foreign students in a way that will redound to the good and benefit of the country. God is the one who grants success.

"At this time, there is a guide in preparation for this year's graduates in the office. It is expected that the number of graduates in the various disciplines will exceed 700,000 including graduates with masters, doctorate and bachelor degrees. They will return to their homeland to take part in the process of broad construction being witnessed by our beloved Kingdom."

9397

CSO: 4404/634

PROBLEMS SURROUNDING FOREIGN-OWNED PROPERTY EXAMINED

Tunis L'AVENIR in French No 21, Apr 82 pp 8, 9, 15

[Article: "Real Estate Owned by Foreigners from the North: a Very Complex Situation Dominated by Speculation"]

[Text] Real estate properties belonging to foreigners in all of Tunisia amount to between 10,000 and 12,000 residences. The largest single group, or one-third of them, is concentrated in the northern region: Bizerte, Menzel Bourguiba, Mateur. As they are the source of considerable profits, the properties have continued to be the object of lawsuits, the parties to which are always those renting them, the real estate office, the owner, or a speculator acting in the name of the owner.

A Real Mess

Each property has its own history and is a business, so that those who take an interest in this study will find themselves literally caught in a mess. For more than a month we have tried to understand the long and the short of each case. We have questioned a large number of people, have attended court cases, and have collected testimony. The material that has been gathered is overwhelming.

First came independence, then came the fighting around the former French naval base at Bizerte, and then the evacuation. The last foreign residents [colons] in Bizerte and Menzel Bourguiba packed their bags hastily and left for their country of origin. Bizerte, the symbol of this struggle, was emptied of its "white" population and returned to the fold, to an independent Tunisia, to national sovereignty.

As the poet said, we are clearing the table of the past. However, the past continues to fill our memories with the red tile roofed houses in the European style, situated in the "white" residential areas of the cities, which remained closed. A symbol of incomplete independence? No doubt. Because these houses--let us not forget too much--were built with the privileges the foreign residents had during the period of the French protectorate. The continuation of the status of these closed up houses constitutes a kind of provocation for Tunisian citizens, a challenge for the nationalists who nonetheless continue to live in a precarious way.

What should be the status of these properties? What should be done with these houses whose owners took the titles of the properties in their suitcases? These questions were raised in particular in the municipal governments which had to provide for their maintenance and security. This cost money, more in any case than the respective municipal budgets could support. However, when you add the total amount of real estate taxes not paid to these periodic costs you have an idea of the budget deficit experienced by the cities of Menzel Bourguiba and Bizerte.

Furthermore, there is a question of principle: the houses should not in any case remain indefinitely closed. Hence the search for a solution. The Tunisian government did not appear prepared to choose radical solutions to finish up once and for all with this colonial heritage. And not wishing to apply the same policy to colonial lands--nationalization--the government has been content to follow a policy of taking small steps, pretending to ignore the fact that partial solutions have never resolved anything.

In the framework of freezing the property of the Europeans and based on legal opinions coming either from the Ministry of the Interior or from the Ministry of Finance, the municipal governments concerned have been torn between two needs: balancing their budgets and the overwhelming need to protect these houses from decay. The municipal governments made use of the right of requisition and decided to reopen and rent them, establishing for this purpose (at the beginning of 1964) a real estate management company called SODIP. The real estate management company was to collect symbolic rents and pay real estate taxes and maintenance costs with these proceeds. Whatever remained of the rents was to be deposited in a blocked account, at the disposition of the owner.

Logically, this first attempt at a solution should have satisfied everyone. The owner kept his property and had a portion of the rent at his disposition. The municipal governments could balance their budgets. The renters lived in the houses after paying very low rents--symbolic rents, they were pleased to say--keeping in their minds the idea that one day the house or apartment would be their property. They were promised that they could live in the house on a lease-purchase basis.

This was an ideal situation, even if the renter realized that he was simply a renter, that he wished to buy the house he was renting, and that the owner would eventually sell a house which no longer brought him any income, even if SODIP (later PROMECO, another real estate management company) owed the municipal governments the attractive sum of 80 million dinars, the total amount of unpaid municipal taxes.

This first attempted solution, with the passage of time, could only lead to failure because no control was exercised over the activities of the SODIP real estate agency. SODIP was a mixed state and private sector company. In addition to the city governments which expected that the 80 million Tunisian dinars owed them would be paid by PROMECO [expansion unknown]--the replacement for SODIP, which was liquidated in 1979--which undertook the management of most of these properties, the renters and the owners were the

chosen victims of bad management and the dishonesty of this agency. However, this failure did not lead the authorities toward displaying greater determination to resolve this question. Quite the contrary, another solution was unfortunately substituted for the preceding bitter pill which let the same practices of the real estate agencies continue, that is, with the same inconvenient consequences.

Two legal measures constituted the basic plot of this second solution. First of all, Law No 39 of 7 June 1978 gave the renters the right of pre-emption, or priority on the purchase of the house or apartment which they were living in. This law provides that if the renter is informed by the agent of the notary involved that the property has been put up for sale, he has 1 month to make known his decision to purchase it. In this case he must collect the money necessary for the sale. If there are several renters involved in the property, the period of notice is 2 months. However, in the latter case establishment of a real estate company is required.

In case the sale of the property to a third party takes place, without the renters having been informed, the latter have 6 months to express their opposition to the sale, establish a company under civil law and collect the money necessary for the purchase. Once the 6 months period has expired, the original sales transaction is considered definitively concluded.

This law, which is apparently clear and conceived with the purpose of protecting the renter, is not, as we will see, free of ambiguity, as it does not take into account the financial capacities of the renters.

The second measure consisted in lifting the right of requisition by the municipalities, effective on 29 January 1979. The non-payment of municipal taxes by SODIP was reportedly the reason for this measure. SODIP was liquidated, and another agency, PROMECO, made up of three small real estate management firms, took over the management of these properties. This "management" function would end when the owner of record would appear on the scene or a real estate agent holding a power of attorney document, signed by the owner and properly notarized.

This brief and simple review of the history of these properties and of the evolution of the laws and regulations concerning them is necessary for the proper understanding of the elements making up this affair. However, let us add that another step was taken in September, 1981, which protected the renter against any need to turn back the apartment which he rented, even if the property were sold. This provision was to be in effect for a period of 5 years.

Unprotected Renters and Run-Down Properties

When we speak of these houses there should be no misunderstanding either about their condition or about the social origins of the renters. The latter, for the most part, are poor and almost destitute people. Some of the renters living in the district with the very revealing name, "Sicily" (that is, in Menzel Bourguiba), were part of the sub-proletariat, at that time known as

those who are below zero, a word much in vogue to designate those who lived in shanty towns. But "Sicily" was not a shanty town, although it has become one. Other renters are office workers, while some work in the construction industry and in factories. A renter told me: "Public opinion should know that we are not rich and that we are not rolling in money. If we were rich, we would not have gone to live in these houses." In any case they have nothing to hide unless it is their misery. In my different contacts with these renters I became aware of desperate cases, of families which struggle daily to feed themselves. These men and women who live in houses belonging to foreigners, paying symbolic rents which they cannot always meet, confronted with the overwhelming power of the speculators, are in the position of being unable to defend themselves and from one day to the next risk being turned out of their houses.

These are some of the real and painful social cases which the government should concern itself with. The law of September, 1981, for that matter, does not remove by very much the specter of their being dispossessed when the real estate transactions are already completed.

This is misery which strikes the hearts of men and women, a kind of violent misery in their bodies which brings together the decay of the houses, the smell which fills the air, the deterioration of the neighborhood and suggests a kind of desolation or hell. There are men and women packed into these places, living in rags, spending the winter exposed to the rain, because the roofs are open to the skies, and going through the summer in the suffocating heat. The houses are covered with excrement which overflows the drains which have been badly damaged and never repaired. There are men, women, and children who sleep at night in the hope of waking up the following day, because the masonry holding the houses together threatens to crumble away. "Sicily," a flagrant example of the human condition.

Speculators Honored

The real estate belonging to foreigners is really a piece of cheese thrown in the path of would-be Maffia members, who had made their appearance well before 1979, but whose activities have been intensified since that date. These are men without any scruples, seeking to enrich themselves at the least cost, with the least effort, and at the expense of others. The law of June, 1978 and the law of January, 1979, provided them with a margin for maneuvering and permitted them to act. And, paradoxically, they have acted under the cover of these two laws as good and honest citizens, as good heads of families.

All the speculators operate in the same way: after obtaining the addresses of the owners they go abroad to take care of their business. One of them has not been stingy about the money spent and travels from Tunisia to France 18 times a year--these are really travel agents!

No one knows what is said over there in France. However, everyone knows, on the other hand, what they have when the speculators return: a power of attorney in good and proper form, legalized by a notary public. This is a notarial document which allows them to undertake all activities in the name

and in place of the owner: to collect rents or to sell the property, in accordance with the great principle of supply and demand. How have they obtained this power of attorney? This is a mystery.

Certain powers of attorney--even those properly legalized--lead to confusion and a climate of suspicion and tension. Let us take the case of the property belonging to the late Mr Bousignore. The owner was French. The renters know that he died, still unmarried. Now, the power of attorney held by Mr T, a well-known speculator in France, is signed by Bousignore's widow. For this reason the renters were not prepared to recognize Mr T as a real estate agent for the property until he gave them material evidence of the existence of the widow in question. Meanwhile, they did not pay any rent on the property. About 2 months ago a family was dragged before the court in Bizerte, which handed down a judgment favorable to Mr T. In the eyes of the law the power of attorney is legal.

This is why this power of attorney leads to confusion:

--First, the address of the signer of the power of attorney on the register of real estate records is 7 Rue de Moselle, Paris 9. On the power of attorney the address is given as 5 Rue de Parme, Paris 10.

--Secondly, the renters contacted Bousignore before his death, when he was living in Marseille, not in Paris.

--Finally, they tried through all available means to establish contact with the widow with no result. They even sought to contact her through consular channels and have had no response.

The Dishonest Activities of the Speculators

The examples in this connection are numerous. We will limit ourselves to mention just a few of them:

A M, a real estate agent, a clandestine speculator, and well known in Bizerte and Menzel Bourguiba. He concluded the sale of a house registered under the number 38648 and belonging to Claire Rose to a certain R B H K. The selling price was 10,000 dinars. In accordance with the regulations dealing with powers of attorney he presented a request for the authorization of the sale. When the renter learned of the matter within the period of delay of 6 months, he opposed the sale and obtained its cancellation. The agent obtained another authorization--this time the price was 6,000 dinars. By dividing the difference between the two prices perhaps you can get an idea of the procedures followed by the speculators to enrich themselves. And let us suppose for a moment that the legal period of delay of 6 months has passed. What will happen to the renter? He will quite simply be thrown out of the house.

Another case, this time handled by the real estate agent A M. This involved Mrs Moufida D, the mother of six children, coming from the nationalist area of Tahar M. This woman lives in a house which has been sold by the speculator in question--clandestinely, without any notification by the agent of the notary that the sale has been made. Knowing nothing of the transaction, she paid the rent to PROMECO. The 6 month period of delay has gone by.

This women, of course, will be put out of the house. Where will she live? This is a question to think about.

I went to see another woman who told me her story, which I pass on to you. Her house was sold to a real estate agent without her knowing it. Even before the expiration of the period of delay of 6 months the agent in question sent his workers to the scene and began tearing down the house, although he first asked the woman to pack her bags. Fortunately, the agent was not far-sighted enough and did not wait for the 6 months to pass. His impatience gave the poor woman the opportunity to oppose the sale.

Here is another example which is no doubt the most revolting of all and which shows just how far the speculators can go in the exploitation of these cases: a certain R R is engaged in real estate speculation in connection with a lawyer. He sold to B B S, an illiterate and an immigrant worker in Marseille, a piece of property. Everything was done according to the rules: the size of the property being sold, the price, the request for permission to sell. After our speculator received his price for the property and his commission, he informed the purchaser quite insolently that what he had bought in fact was only a part of the property and that the heirs of the rest of the property, who wanted to sell all of it, were demanding more money. No comment--the courts are handling the matter.

I would like to conclude this section by giving an example which shows a whole system of operating which characterizes the real estate world of Bizerte.

This affair goes back to 30 January 1978. The renters of the house located at 74 Rue d'Espagne, Bizerts, the property of Darid Dandisco, were summoned to the municipal administrative office of Bizerte-Nord. One of the secretaries in the office asked them if they were interested in acquiring the house that they were renting and what price they wished to pay for it. The response of the renters was quite clear: we wish to buy and at the price asked by the seller.

On 31 July 1978 a notarial assistant, H J, presented the renters with a notification informing them that the owner had decided to sell the property for 11,500 dinars. The renters presented the request for authorization of the sale. Five of them obtained it on 6 August, and the sixth renter obtained it on 4 September. They collected the 11,500 dinars and deposited the money in the designated account at the municipal office on 21 September 1978 (Receipt No 1052).

They established a civil real estate company on 13 September 1978. Everything had therefore been done according to the rules and everything seemed to be going forward normally. But then unexpected developments often occur in this kind of business.

J B S C, an immigrant worker living in Toulon for more than 20 years, was also interested in the property and had declared himself a potential buyer. He also presented his request for authorization to purchase, and this was issued to him on 5 September 1978, or 1 day after the authorization given

to the sixth and last of the renters. The first question to be asked is how could two authorizations be issued within the space of 1 day, one of them for an apartment and the other for the whole property? This question is even more pertinent when we know that the existing renters had first refusal and had made known their intention to purchase the whole property.

On the other hand the renters reportedly asked the notarial assistant, H J, to whom they should pay the money, as no name was listed on the notification. After some hesitation and a phone call to a lawyer the notary answered: pay H J, as he is authorized to receive the money and act in the name of the owner. The renters then asked the notary if H J had a power of attorney. Certainly he does, replied the notary.

This discussion took place at the office of the notarial assistant on 31 July 1978. The power of attorney was signed on 4 August. The real estate agent was none other than H J himself, whose name was later added to the notification of sale.

According to information available to us, H J had already bought the property for 8,500 dinars. He deposited the sum of 6,220.619 dinars [6,220 and 619 thousandths of a dinar] into a non-resident blocked bank account (at the Banque du Sud), No 26,404,200,122, and paid municipal taxes owing for the previous 12 years, amounting to 2,545,988 dinars [2,545 and 988 thousandths of a dinar].

The matter is now in the hands of the courts. It is proceeding according to established practice. The renters are determined to fight to the end against the procedures of which they are the victims. However, let us note the difference between the purchase prices: H J bought the property for 8,500 dinars. The renters who wanted to buy the property paid 11,500 dinars. This example is typical and instructive.

Beside the speculators there are the men of the law, lawyers and notaries who are quickly getting rich, in a twinkling of an eye. Some 4 years ago a notary was a simple clerk. He passed an examination and became a notary. He came from a family of modest background. In the space of 3 years he has become a multi-millionaire.

The Real Estate Agencies and Their Scandalous Kind of Management

We said previously that SODIP at first and then PROMECO were only responsible for the management of these properties, in return for a commission which they were to deduct from the rents collected. They were to provide for the maintenance of the properties and pay the municipal taxes. Everything happened as we indicated, deducted from the rent.

A visit to most of the properties convinced us of the negative side of the maintenance effort. Large numbers of dirty properties, windows broken, walls smeared, not to speak, of course, of the stink which was part of the decorations: piles of garbage were found in the yards next to the houses. The roofs threatened to cave in at any moment.

On the other hand the municipal taxes had not been paid at all. The evidence is substantial. The figure of 80 million dinars mentioned above seems to be a fact. However, the responsible figures in PROMECO whom we asked about this assured us that all taxes due had been paid and that if there were some properties on which taxes were still owing, the real estate agency was in the course of doing everything to clean up the situation involving each property.

PROMECO scrupulously keeps the accounts for each property. All expenditures made for maintenance and for the payment of municipal taxes are entered into an accounts book. However, this does not prevent cases of scandal and mismanagement from occurring.

The subtle game leads inevitably to corruption. There is no shortage of examples. We collected only a few cases to present here: a former employee of PROMECO told me that the bills were not in order. The maintenance costs were over-valued and at times were fictitious. We will give only one example to illustrate this.

J P built his house on the Avenue du 3 Aout 1903 at the end of 1958. He left Menzel Bourguiba after the French evacuation of the Bizerte region. In 1975 he returned to Tunisia to inquire into the status of his property. The municipal taxes had not been paid, and PROMECO presented him with various bills one of them relating to the reconstruction of the roof. Isn't it strange that a roof falls in and that you should need to rebuilt it 17 years after it was originally constructed?

Regarding the municipal taxes, we know from a reliable source that they have not been paid at all. We also know that it is the potential purchaser of a property belonging to an absentee foreign owner who must pay the municipal taxes in arrears which have not been paid by PROMECO.

By means of these examples which could be extended by a list of owners who have not entered suit against PROMECO, we get some idea of the improper management, unworthy of a mixed semi-private and semi-state company, that is typical of PROMECO. A more detailed inquiry could reveal more interesting things. It is up to the authorities to conduct such an inquiry.

ENNASR, or the Incorruptibles

The renters are trying to organize themselves, more or less, and to fight. The cases are brought to court practically every day. In this struggle men and women who have successfully dared to protest against the atmosphere in Bizerte-Nord have appeared. ENNASR, a real estate company, has been established for the purpose of letting renters become full owners of their houses and of opposing present practices with all of the energy which characterizes these incorruptible men and women, who are acting for a noble cause, apart from any material benefits.

Angry to the point of delirium they have gone to war against the speculators and the real estate agents since the establishment of ENNASR in 1980.

Presided over and advised by a talented lawyer, the company has devoted itself to an eminently humanitarian mission of defending the renters against all comers, while still observing the law strictly and in conformity with its provisions. The company is neither profit-making nor political in nature.

ENNASR's activities bother some people and annoy others. But ENNASR continues to follow its course imperturbably. By its seriousness and the honesty of its leaders it has been able to make itself felt in the region, becoming a trusted mediator with authorities who seem now, and under pressure from France, to wish to finish once and for all with this inconvenient "heritage" of the colonial period.

5170

CSO: 8119/1894

GRAIN SECTOR DISCUSSED

Tunis AL-'AMAL in Arabic 18 Aug 82 p 5

[Article by al-Munji al-Sahili: "Grain Sector Records Relative Growth During Current Season"]

[Text] The grain sector has priority in the goals of the sixth 5-year plan, since it receives continuous encouragements regarding an increase in the price of grain, when production permits. Even though it is still too early to issue an objective judgement concerning the relative increase in this season's crop, as compared to other seasons, production has reached 13 million qantars [1 qantar = 53.9 kg] whereas in 1980 it was not over 10 million qantars. This reflects the concern and interest in this sector by the farmers. But, their ambitions greatly exceed what we have so far achieved, because we are still far from attaining our food self-sufficiency in this vital commodity.

In the documents pertaining to the broad outlines of the sixth 5-year plan, it was reported that "the importance of the grain sector in terms of its role in achieving food security, and the size of the acreage allotted to it, amounting to one-third of the agricultural acreage, makes it necessary that it be in the forefront of our concerns, and even to use all the sectors to attain the projected goals, which are to achieve 70 percent of our grain requirements for human and animal consumption by 1986 (compared to 59 percent in 1981).

"That requires distributing the planted acreage in terms of its affinity for grain crops, along with allocating the central and south for barley, and improve production in all areas so as to attain 10 qantars per hectare by 1986, compared to 8.5 in 1981. Moreover, we must promote grain crops in the medium-sized estates, with the introduction of cattle breeding, and following a policy of improving yields, through the use of more fertilizers, insecticides and better seeds. Investments in this sector will go toward increasing the number of agricultural machines, finding new places to accumulate the harvests on the level of production areas and bolstering the country's capacity for storage."

It is worth pointing out that the grain production rate reached 9.9 million qantars during the period of the fifth 5-year plan, and that it will be possible to achieve the growth goal of attaining increased levels of

production by 1986. It is expected that grain production will reach 15 million qantars, i.e., an increase of 31 percent.

It might be difficult to achieve such production figures as these without considering changes in the methods of production and pursuing modern ways of intensive agriculture, along with trying to supply water. Even if most of the fertile planted land is only nourished by rain water, it is possible to use the amounts of that water to revive the land, enrich it and maintain its soil.

It is well known that it would be difficult to plant more than 5 million hectares, with about 250,000 hectares irrigated. However, the plan aims at attaining its goals by using a policy aimed at intensified agriculture and seeking the optimum from water and soil resources.

Raising the size of investment allocated for agriculture, which amounts to 17 percent of the total investment, compared to 13 percent during the previous plan will meet these two goals. Accordingly, agricultural investments generally will amount to 1360 million dinars, distributed as follows: 60 percent for intensified production and 40 percent for projects to use agricultural resources. An important part of these investments will be allocated to the grain sector, which undoubtedly will receive special attention from the farmers, since they can rest easy about the future of this sector throughout the period of the sixth 5-year plan, and accordingly, through all the future plans and decades, which will generally witness agricultural growth in all the specialties, such as cattle breeding, fruit trees, vegetables and industrial plants (sugar beets and cotton).

Perhaps our concern for this sector is dictated by increased consumption needs and the difficulty of fulfilling all the demands without relying on imports. This is what makes the trade balance of payments so large. This could be saved by relying on our own production capacity and working to reduce our food shortfalls, with respect to certain basic commodities, such as grains, meat, and dairy products, and attaining a degree of complete food security for all Tunisians, without dependence on imports.

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